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Fairfax CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle
PAGE 10

Cherry trees in bloom
frame children playing
Sunday afternoon in
Van Dyck Park in the
City of Fairfax.

April Showers Bring Spring Flowers

NEWS, PAGE 5

Leadership Fairfax Hits a Home Run

NEWS, PAGE 8

'This Is Bold and a Great Opportunity'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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'This Is Bold and a Great Opportunity'

Developer hopes to build hotel along Main Street.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Currently, there are no hotels in Fairfax City's Old Town area. But if a developer's proposal comes to fruition, that could change in a big way.

It's not yet known what brand of hotel would be built, but plans were revealed at last Tuesday's (April 2) City Council work session. Speaking first was a City senior planner, Albert Frederick, who outlined the proposal submitted by the applicant, Ox Hill Realty.

The site is at the southwest corner of Main and West streets where two office buildings, a restaurant and bank currently stand. One office building would remain, but everything else would be replaced by a mixed-use building containing a hotel, performance center, game space, restaurants, retail and office use, about 100 residential units and a three-level, below-grade parking garage.

The hotel would have 140-160 rooms, plus a swimming pool, in a six- to seven-story building, and the parking garage would have approximately 479 parking spaces. The property consists of four land parcels in the City totaling some 2 acres, plus an undeveloped, Fairfax County-owned, 13,000-square-foot parcel – which is envisioned as becoming a landscaped plaza for pedestrians.

Representing the applicant, land-use attorney Lynne Strobel said, "This mix of uses would be a vibrant addition to the City." But before the developer made his presentation, Council members asked City staff some questions about traffic.

"How would this affect traffic on Main Street?" asked Councilman Sang Yi. "It's obvious, it will get more backed-up."

"The applicant will have to study traffic management on Main Street and will have to talk with the county about traffic on its property, too," replied Community Development Division Chief Jason Sutphin. "There are some potential options and some challenges, and we're awaiting a full traffic study. We'll also see if the number of access points are adequate for this site."

IN RESPONSE to another question from Yi, Sutphin said the performance area would require its own parking. Furthermore, said Public Works Director David Summers, "Our traffic engineer, Curt McCullough, will study the traffic there, as will the city engineer and [Transportation Director] Wendy Sanford, and we'll make several comments. I think this project would be a valuable, economic boon to our area, but we need



Conceptual site plan showing where the hotel and office building would go.



The hotel would be built along Main Street, near its intersection with North and West streets.

more information about the traffic impacts."

"We could also look at whether we have the right traffic patterns at North and Main streets, seeing how traffic backs up there now," said Councilman Michael DeMarco. "This is bold and a great opportunity for us, but we need to think about it in the larger context of the Old Town area."

Then Chris Smith of Ox Hill Realty addressed the Council. "We looked at seeing if there's a better use for this property," he said. "It's a gateway to Old Town, from the west. We asked City staff what the City wants there, and we worked with [Economic Development Director] Chris Bruno and the county – which is working on a Master Plan there."

Smith said they designed the property to extend Page Avenue through it, and he said

staff told him a hotel would be good at the proposed site. "This is an old town," said Smith. "And [historically] in old towns, the hotel was always the biggest building."

Yet, he's also looking toward the future and potentially partnering with GMU regarding its MGTA program which enables students to develop new skills and knowledge in game design and programming. "GMU has a gaming-technology area, and its MGTA brings it to high-school and middle-school children," said Smith. "They could come in, in the evenings and on week-ends, and have gaming classes [at our new facility]."

In addition, he said, "The performance-arts theater would allow GMU to have performances there. Plus, international and local school performances could be there,

"This is bold and a great opportunity for us, but we need to think about it in the larger context of the Old Town area."

—Councilman Michael DeMarco

too, in a cool environment."

Smith said one restaurant would be on the hotel's first floor, opening to the plaza. "The county supports this, and it creates an open area connecting to the farmers market," he said. "The other restaurant would be a rooftop one with indoor and outdoor seating, with fire pits, looking over the old courthouse. Plus the public space/park would connect the west side to the east side."

FAIK TUGBERK, architect and principal with Architects Collaborative, presented further details. "We're excited to be here and share our vision with you," he said. "Altogether, this is about 270,000 square feet above grade. The uses are still in flux, but the hotel is the driving force and will set a precedent for other developers."

He said the plan is to fit in and be complementary with the surroundings. "This will be lively on the street level, with people uses on the hotel's first floor – the lobby, fitness area, possible retail, etc.," said Tugberk. "This is a city in flux, and we can help you make that transition."

Noting a lack of green, civic space there, he said the area to the left of the hotel could become that space because of the plaza. Calling it a "pedestrian plaza," Tugberk said it would have seating and lights and could be a place for people to sit and have a sandwich or meet with friends. And the restaurant opening onto it would be 6,000 or 7,000 square feet and would be at the corner of West Street and that plaza.

"We're going to reduce the four curb cuts [onto the property] to two, and the main entry point would be as far from the [Main/West] streets intersection as possible," said Tugberk. "Wells Fargo Bank is there now and wants to stay. The hotel will have classic architecture, emulating the courthouse, and would look like three buildings from the street."

He said the hotel, conference room, ballroom, etc., plus restaurants, would comprise 180,000 square feet above ground. The office/retail building to its right is 100,000 square feet. "Our study said the City could accommodate [this size] hotel," added Smith. "And it would be one that would serve people coming to events [both] here and at GMU."

SEE MORE: COUNCIL WEIGHS IN ON HOTEL PROJECT, PAGE 13



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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Fatal Pedestrian Crash in Fairfax

Fair Oaks Police District Crash Reconstruction Unit is investigating after a pedestrian was hit and killed around 6 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9. Detectives believe 63-year-old Ralph Johnson, of Reston, was attempting to cross Lee Jackson Memorial Highway near Alder Woods Drive. The driver of a 2017 Toyota Highlander, who was traveling westbound on Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, hit Johnson as he was walking in the road. Johnson was not in a crosswalk. He was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with detectives. Neither speed nor alcohol were factors for the driver. Detectives believe that alcohol may have been a factor for Johnson.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

Marsden to Discuss Access to Medical Cannabis

State Sen. David W. Marsden will discuss the benefits of the medical cannabis preparations made available through Virginia's regulated program. Speaking at OLLI Mason, 4210 Roberts Rd, Fairfax

April 16, 2:15-3:40 p.m. Marsden will detail his five-year effort to make these oils available to Virginians whose doctors feel they will help any condition or disorder they may have. The oils have remarkable abilities to help with epilepsy, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, nephropathy, and other conditions affecting pain in bodily joints. Marsden will review how they can be obtained from the five licensed processors authorized by the General Assembly to deliver these products to your door.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

The Future of Transportation Investment in Virginia. 7:30-9 a.m. at the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, 8407 Pennell St., Fairfax. Join the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance as two key transportation legislators share their ideas on how Virginia's General Assembly can address the

need for more sustainable transportation funding, improved project prioritization, and other major transportation challenges facing our Commonwealth. Individual tickets are \$25. Register at nvta.org/event/virginiatransportationinvestments/ or call 703-883-1830 for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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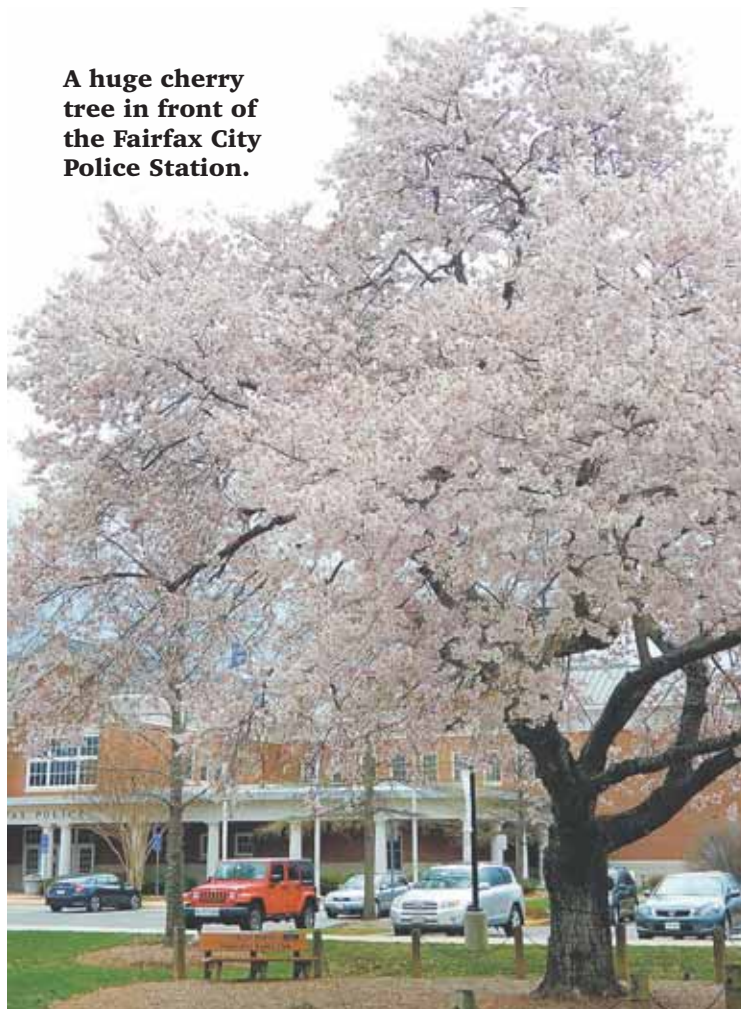
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A huge cherry tree in front of the Fairfax City Police Station.



April Showers Bring Spring Flowers

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

Spring has sprung in the City of Fairfax.

Daffodils have burst forth in the Kitty Pozer Garden.



Purple hyacinths and yellow daffodils in the Pozer Garden near Old Town Square.



Blossoms adorning the fence outside Van Dyck Park.



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Empowering Victims of Sexual Assault

Sexual assault awareness and prevention in Fairfax County.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT



April is sexual assault awareness month. This awareness month is especially relevant with the recent high-profile cases of sexual assault. These stories have taught us that anyone can be a victim of sexual assault. The crime does not discriminate against race, education, status, age or gender. This has started an important conversation among all of us about sexual assault and listening to victims. Fairfax County seeks to empower victims of sexual assault, prevent sexual assault through education, and provide comprehensive services to survivors.

Statistics vary, but many studies show as many as 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Sadly, only one third of these crimes are reported to law enforcement according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. While Fairfax County is the safest jurisdiction of its size in the country, sexual violence is still an issue we face. The Fairfax County Police Department re-

ceived 289 reports of sexual assault in 2017. Aside from prevention, Fairfax County is dedicated to encouraging victims to report the crimes committed against them so justice can be served.

The Department of Family Services' Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS) 24/7 Hotline (703-360-7273) is one of the resources that provides a safe place for victims of sexual assault. The confidential hotline connects victims or concerned bystanders with trained volunteers. The callers can speak openly to the volunteers who can give them crisis support and point them to the next best step. DSVS also provides counseling services, hospital accompaniment, advocacy services, housing and financial assistance. The hotline is separate from the police department, but they may encourage the victims to contact the police department and guide them through the process of reporting the crime.

The Fairfax County Police Department is highly trained to carefully interview victims and investigate the crime as thoroughly as

possible to help them get justice. In fact, the department is co-hosting the second annual Northern Virginia Sex Crimes Investigators Conference this year to offer additional specialized training in sexual assault cases to local officers. Victims services are also provided by department staff to give "immediate and direct support and assistance to crime victims, their families and witnesses suffering emotionally, financially and physically."

There are several programs geared toward education, awareness, and sexual assault prevention. The County's Community and Engagement Services team offers several different informational courses and presentations on sexual assault awareness and prevention. One of these classes, called the HYPE (Healthy Youth Prevention Education) Project, teaches teens about intimate partner violence, sexual assault prevention, and healthy relationship skills through hands-on activities, multimedia, role-play exercises and facilitated discussions. Through programs like these we can comprehensively address the issue of sexual assault and come closer to ridding it from our society for good.

Need for Affordable Housing: 'Raging Five-alarm Fire'

BY KOFI ANNAN
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP



Transcript of planned testimony before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at budget hearings.

Fairfax County is one of the most attractive places to live and work, not only in Northern Virginia, but throughout the region, and a big reason for that is our rich diversity. However, that diversity is being increasingly threatened by rising home prices and the lack of affordable housing in the region. The situation will be exacerbated by the arrival of Amazon, which is projected to bring an additional 25,000 employees — most of whom will make six-figure salaries. Demand is already increasing dramatically, which is pushing the almost 70,000 poor and working class people out of Fairfax County. According to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, the number of homes under contract rose by 70 percent over the last year. This means that fewer and fewer of our teachers, county staff, hospitality industry workers, nurses, and public safety officials will be able to live in the communities they serve. This means that the fewer and fewer of our young people will be able to leave the nest once they graduate high school or college. That means that fewer and fewer of our elderly population will be able to age in place without having to make unconscionable choices of paying to keep a roof over their heads or paying to put food on the table or purchasing medication. Up to 20,000 senior households and 10,000 disabled households are making these choices everyday as we speak. And this means that many people of color will also be forced

to abandon their homes as our communities experience gentrification. Fifty percent of the county's African American community are currently categorized as housing insecure; and 50% of the County's homeless population are African American.

While the NAACP voted in favor of the Housing Commission's recommendation to add a minimum of 5,000 units over the next fifteen years, this problem cannot wait fifteen years, and 5,000 units would not come close to addressing the actual current need which is 30,000 units, much less the projected need fifteen years from now. The problem of affordable housing is becoming similar to a raging five-alarm fire, but unfortunately the county's approach has been to tackle it with a garden hose instead of giving it the priority attention it truly deserves.

Therefore, we strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund in the 2020 Budget by exploring inefficiencies in other programs and/or include an additional half-penny real estate tax in this year's budget. These funds should be used to stimulate new investment in new market affordable units, and preserve existing ones. Also, beginning in FY2021, approve an annual appropriation of \$50 million for the County's Housing Trust Fund. The argument that there is already unused money in the Trust Fund is also unacceptable, and the county should address this immediately to encourage more private investment.

In a related matter, we applaud the county for funding efforts to investigate real estate steering and discrimination. The 2017 Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs report

found that because of past discriminatory practices in housing, Fairfax County does not have the racial distribution in housing that would be present in a free housing market. These studies should begin to address this issue.

Next we would like to revisit the issue of early childhood education. There are more than 17,000 children from low-income families eligible for county-subsidized pre-K education who are not receiving it with over 4,000 currently wait-listed. Last year the county only provided funding for an additional 36 children; but in response to our requests to do more, the county claimed it would conduct a study to learn the full scope of the problem and cost to implement universal pre-K. Unfortunately, as of today the county has neither followed-through with the promised study nor funded a meaningful increase for the known children. This year the county is funding the exact same increase as it did last year - 36. Therefore we are reiterating our call for the county to commit necessary resources to enroll at least 300 low-income children in pre-K in 2020 and to devise a long-term plan to provide for at least 2,000 children over the next five years.

We applaud and support the plan to fund the purchase and implementation of police body worn cameras using the funds that were set aside to implement the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Police Practices and Review Commission. This would be a significant step towards bringing the Fairfax County Police Department on par with other local and regional departments. As one of the largest in the country, it's important that our department remains a leader in innovation, transparency, and public accountability.

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NEWS

'Artful Living' Benefits Families in Need

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths invites the community to attend a special evening of art, wine and philanthropy in celebration of its 35 years of helping struggling families to thrive. "Artful Living" will be held Thursday, May 2, from 7-10 p.m., at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road in Fairfax. The theme is "Thrive," and the event benefits the Fairfax County families served by Britepaths and working toward financial self-sufficiency. It will feature a juried art show highlighting local artists whose works will be available for sale.

The festivities also include live music by local, Latin-jazz band Batida Diferente, appetizers, wine and beer. A live, charity auction will offer items including: A beachfront condo stay in Cozumel, Mexico; an original, stained-glass piece by Britepaths' Executive Director Lisa Whetzel; and an Emerald Isle, N.C., beach house rental.

Early-bird tickets are \$75 through Thursday, April 11, and \$100 from April 12 through May 2. Tickets may be purchased at britepaths.org or at the event. Contact info@britepaths.org or call 703-273-8829 for more information.

All year long, Britepaths programs stabilize families, build resilience and provide seasonal support. And during the evening, attendees will hear a story of resiliency and triumph from a client who has achieved self-sufficiency with Britepaths' help. Fittingly, event proceeds will benefit Britepaths' programs to provide financial education and mentoring, plus emergency food, financial aid and seasonal assistance to working families struggling to make ends meet.

"Art has the ability to transform, which we feel speaks to our mission to empower those among us who are struggling, but still working hard to transform their lives and thrive in our expensive area," said Whetzel. "We hope everyone will join us for this



Shobha M. looks closely at a painting at last year's "Artful Living."

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

"Art has the ability to transform, which we feel speaks to our mission to empower those among us who are struggling, but still working hard to transform their lives and thrive in our expensive area."

—Britepaths' Executive Director Lisa Whetzel

unique event that offers us an opportunity to look at the world around us through a different lens."

Artful Living is made possible by these sponsors: Executive 1 Holding Co.; Edelman Financial Engines; Bank of America; Financial Investments Inc.; Ken and Linda Kozloff; Glenn Hediger and Nancy McLernon; Apple Federal Credit Union; Cruise Planners; Starfish Foundation of Fairfax, Inc.; Team Freiman at Morgan Stanley; United Bank; Sullivan, Bruyette, Speros & Blayney, LLC; Unfazed Media; Printing Ideas; The Cake Pop; Nothing Bundt Cakes; Fairfax Woman Magazine; Freedom Bank; Busboys and Poets; and Giant Food.

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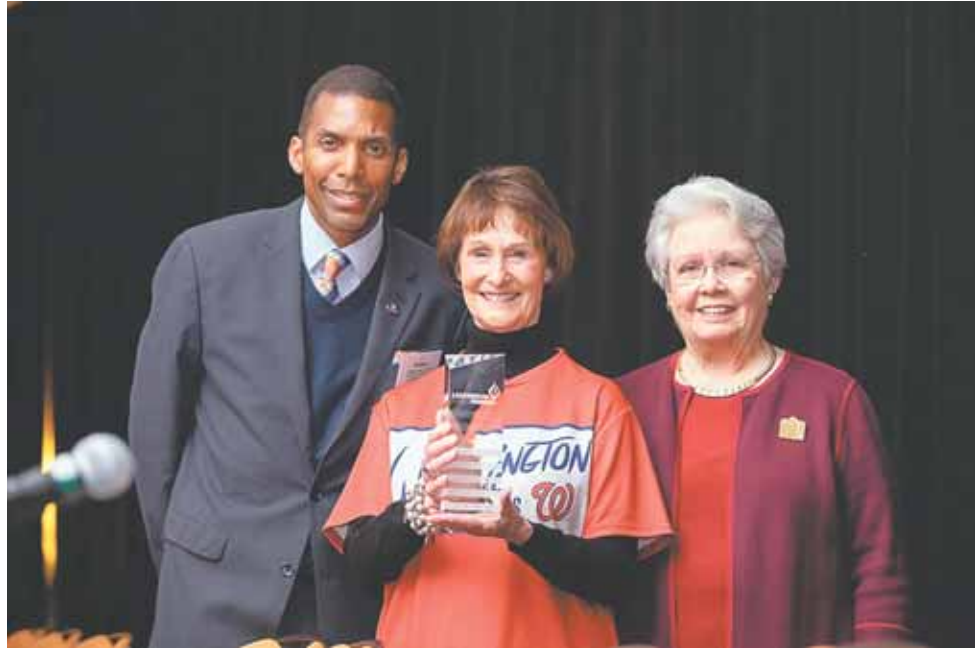


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The 2019 recipient of the Katherine K. Hanley Award for Public Service is Sharon Bulova (center), Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The honor was presented to Bulova at the Leadership Fairfax Breakfast with the Board by Rodney Lusk and award namesake Katherine Hanley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

A swing, but no miss for the supervisors who are retiring from the Board “line-up” at the end of the year. Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill), Sharon Bulova (Chair), Linda Smyth (Providence), and John Cook (Braddock) have all made significant contributions to the community and the residents of Fairfax County and beyond in their time in office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

In keeping with the baseball theme, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid — flanked by Leadership Fairfax graduates of the class of 2017 Devan Strebig and Brian Kincaid — gets interviewed in the “Press Box.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

The elected officials were made to show off their athletic skills by throwing out a softball – a really, really soft ball! – after answering the first set of questions posed by moderator Casey Veatch. Their efforts drew a variety of a calls from umpire Mark Ingrao.

Leadership Fairfax Hits a Home Run

Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors honors community service.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Leadership Fairfax Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors is always a hot ticket, drawing a full house of elected officials, community and business leaders and members of local law enforcement — many of them alumni of Leadership Fairfax programs — eager to reunite with other grads” meet and greet and network with others in their space. They are also there to watch their government representatives opine on the state of our local affairs all while letting down their professional hair just a bit.

The 28th edition of the breakfast, held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church on Friday, April 5, met all those expectations. The planners went for a baseball theme for this year’s event and from the very first inning they produced a winner, starting with the Press Box set up in the lobby, where Leadership Fairfax class of 2017 alumni Brian Kincaid and Devan Strebig interviewed a number of the local star players like Supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee District) and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

Opening remarks were handled by Leadership Fairfax President & CEO Karen Cleveland, Leadership Fairfax Board Chairman Huey Battle, and Monica Schmude, President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Cigna, the event’s MVP sponsor.

Before the Board of Supervisors team took the field, however, award namesake Katherine Hanley and Fairfax County Economic Development Authority national director of marketing Rodney Lusk, a longtime local civic activist and 1998 Leadership Fairfax graduate, presented the 16th annual Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award.

Lusk read out the names of the previous winners before announcing — to thunderous applause — Board of Supervisors Chair-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomes the spectators to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott.

man Sharon Bulova as the 2019 award recipient. Even among such illustrious company, Lusk noted that Bulova was “a real stand-out.”

After a career of more than 30 years of service to the community, the last ten of which saw her preside over the governing of Fairfax County as the Board Chair, Bulova has decided to retire at the end of her term, and she will be much-missed, said Lusk.

Both Hanley and Lusk said they were hard-pressed to name only a few of Bulova’s accomplishments and contributions. The fact that the county maintained its AAA Bond rating during her term, despite the Great Recession, the federal sequestration and sev-

eral partial government shutdowns that severely impacted a government town like Northern Virginia, are testaments to Bulova’s leadership, said Lusk.

Her involvement with championing the development of the county’s Diversion First program (designed to decrease the use of arrest and incarceration for low-level offenders with mental health issues), her role with Virginia Railway Express and Metro’s Silver Line, initiating the Faith Communities in Action and convening the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, as well as her dedication to the One Fairfax equity initiative, make Bulova “the obvious choice for such recognition” for an award given to someone “who exemplifies service above self and has had a positive effect on the County.”

With the award ceremony complete, it was time to call “Play Ball!”

THE STARTING LINE-UP of the “Leadership Fairfax All Stars” was introduced by Leadership Fairfax COO Andy Sigle, using a spot-on impression of an announcer’s voice as he called out each district supervisor in turn.

- ❖ Kathy “Rainmaker” Smith - Sully, “drafted” in 2016
- ❖ Pat “Ace on Base” Herrity - Springfield, 2008
- ❖ John “Legal Eagle” Foust - Dranesville, 2007
- ❖ Cathy “The Hammer” Hudgins - Hunter Mill, 2000
- ❖ Penny “The Consultant” Gross - Mason, 1996
- ❖ Linda “Big Slugger” Smyth - Providence, 2003
- ❖ Dan “Rail Splitter” Storck, - Mt. Vernon, 2016
- ❖ John “The Champion” Cook - Braddock, 2009
- ❖ Jeff “Batter Up” McKay - Lee, 2008
- ❖ Sharon “The Chairman” Bulova - At-

Large, 2009

All the “players” ran in to take their positions on the dais as baseball-style card photos were flashed on screen with their photos and their stats, including a few of their most significant achievements and areas of involvement.

Moderator and head umpire Casey Veatch, principal with Veatch Commercial Real Estate and graduate of Leadership Fairfax class of 1999 got the game under way, giving them an easy pitch to start the proceedings by asking each supervisor to recount a sports memory.

Hilarious, poignant, and even a few dramatic moments were shared, but the highlight of each story was the signing of a *really-soft* softball by each before they tossed it into the crowd – to a varying degree of success. Each throw was judged by umpire Mark Ingrao, President and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. Ingrao called a few base hits, a foul ball or two, and declared that Supervisor Cook should actually be called “outta here!” when his enthusiastic pitch hit the ballroom ceiling before bouncing back into the crowd.

In regards to the toss outs, Veatch assured the audience of two things: “It’s ok – Leadership Fairfax has insurance for today’s game, and secondly, our umpire is legit,” he said, referencing Ingrao’s induction as an umpire in the Softball Hall of Fame.

“If we get into any tussles among the players,” Veatch joked, “we’re still safe since the ump is also a Wrestling Hall of Fame referee!”

Another easy pitch to the players followed. “Name your favorite stadium snack,” asked Veatch.

McKay was quick to respond, “beer.” Storck followed up “then with 2 beers!” Herrity also voted for beer, while sausages, hot dogs, and peanuts also made the list.

After the sports stories were concluded

and the softballs thrown without major injury to either players or spectators, it was time for the fastballs, curveballs, and sliders to finally be unleashed.

IT’S AN ELECTION YEAR in Fairfax County. All of the seats on the Board of Supervisors are up for grabs, but even if incumbents retain their positions, the line up of the Board is set to change dramatically.

In addition to Bulova’s retirement, the Hunter Mill, Braddock and Providence districts will all see new faces of representation as Cathy Hudgins, John Cook, and Linda Smyth respectively declined to seek re-election. Jeff McKay of the Braddock District is running to take the Board Chair position, meaning his district will also elect a new supervisor.

“I think it’s something like 40 years since we held a primary for the Chairman’s seat,” said Veatch, but that is exactly what is ahead for McKay and his Democratic challengers on June 11.

With all that change in the air, Veatch asked questions that not only focused on the current state of affairs, but on how that change may effect the governance of Fairfax County going forward. He also reminded Bulova, Cook, Hudgins, and Smyth that their impending retirements from the team meant they were “free to speak your minds,” while pointing out that Penny Gross (Mason) would become the longest-serving member of the board and “the adult in the room.”

Some of their responses included:

Gross (Mason) – “Yes, I will be the adult supervision,” she laughed, but vowed to be the mentor to the newbies that helped her transition successfully when she joined the Board. Gross also referenced a quote that advised that “one could go far alone, but to go far required going together. The united team of the Board of Supervisors can move us forward, base to base.”

Foust (Dranesville) also spoke to unity and the need for collaboration among the connected regions of Fairfax County and neighbors, in order to collaboratively achieve success for all citizens.

Cook (Braddock) expressed concern about the destructive impact of divisions within the country and even the county, and the potential for further harm as the wealth gap continues to widen. When the American Dream changes from “if I work hard I can get there, to even if I work hard I can’t get there,” Cook says the resentment and the division builds up. “Government doesn’t create, so much as it follows. It’s up to you and the community to work together with government” to make community improvements and get things done.

Smith (Sully) talked about changes to the county’s zoning laws - big and small. In addition to hearing cases and making changes to protect the integrity of the county’s standards, Smith explained how some restrictions on owning unusual pets like chinchillas and hedgehogs had been eased, thanks to the advocacy of some younger members of her constituency. “Yes, you can now own a hedgehog,” said Smith, “but please consider your pet choices carefully and learn how to take care of your pets properly.” Referencing a recent report on illnesses that can be passed from hedgehog to human, Smith added “and words I never thought I would say in my professional life, please don’t kiss your hedgehog.”

Herrity (Springfield), who has long been a champion of the war against opioid addictions and deaths in the region, spoke of the steps being made to improve the devastating situation. “Opioid deaths were down by 40 percent between 2017 – 2018,” he noted, but said there was still much work to be done and better reporting needed. “The biggest need is more resources for treatment,” he added. “There just aren’t enough treatment

centers” to address the problems.

Smyth (Providence) talked about the big achievements that can be made working together. The Mosaic district project started as a task force in 1990 comprising local residents as well as government officials and potential stakeholders and developers. An area that was plagued by deterioration and crime, at the time of the task force’s inception, the space was valued at \$38 million. “Today, as of January 1, 2019, the Mosaic District is valued at \$648 million. That’s what cooperative revitalization can do,” she declared.

Hudgins (Hunter Mill) praised the ever-improving relationship between the county government and the Fairfax County Public Schools, seeing their more open and receptive communications and partnership as a real benefit to all county citizens, not just its young people. She is also proud of the adoption of the One Fairfax “lens by which we will look at every policy, everything we do” to avoid actions that would create inequitable situations. Hudgins also took the opportunity to strongly urge that solving the affordable housing crisis be a top priority both now and going forward.

Storck (Mount Vernon) thanked his fellow board members for their willingness to invest in his district, which will see the county’s largest employer in Fort Belvoir at one end of the Richmond Highway and Amazon, as it is built, on the other end of the corridor. “All told, there will be about \$1 billion invested in this area with transit options, road widening and more. The positive effects are already being felt,” said Storck. The “forward-thinking” of the board will mean continued growth, improvement and revitalization not only for the Mt. Vernon District, but the whole region. “That is real leadership.”

Bulova (Chair) and **McKay** (Lee) both were asked to address growth and develop-

ment in the county.

“There is a strategy to how we grow and how we manage our growth,” Bulova answered. Development is first reviewed to support and protect “our stable, residential neighborhoods.”

Growth is targeted at areas that if left alone “would continue to deteriorate.” She cited areas along the Richmond Highway corridor that “are virtually the same as when I arrived here as a young bride during the Vietnam War. We need to bring improvements there.”

Bulova also noted that development takes into consideration environmental needs, not only seeking to avoid negative environmental impacts, but looking to proactively improve currently less-than-ideal environmental situations.

McKay followed up with success stories of development in his own district. “The mall in the central Springfield District went from the least desirable asset, to the third most valuable such property in the county.” The new TSA building is also slated for the district.

“In all cases, development must consider environmental impacts and make improvements there, and to infrastructure.”

Even though the audience seemed willing to stay for extra innings, after the last round of questions, Veatch had to “call the game,” declaring that all in attendance, players and spectators alike had emerged as winners from this year’s Leadership Fairfax Breakfast with the Board, while reminding them all to vote in the elections on November 5.

To take a swing at improving your leadership skills and community impact, visit www.leadershipfairfax.org. Programs are tailored for experienced leaders as well as those just starting their careers. Leadership Fairfax also offers a Lifetime Leaders Program designed for retiring or newly retired individuals.

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PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Even in cooler months, guests can find a warm spot outdoors — whether it's soaking in the sunken hot tub or cozying up to the wood burning fireplace flanked by gas torches.

Stylish Outdoor Living Wins 'Contractor of the Year'

Dreaming of making the most of outdoor living? Look at this.

BY JOHN BYRD

An outdoor living addition to Chateau-style residence in Oakton has won a "Contractor of the Year" grand award for Sun Design Remodeling Specialists.

The comprehensive design — which combines a screened porch, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, a hot tub and a stone fireplace in a cleverly integrated, multi-level layout— completes the rear elevation of the 9,500 square foot custom home the owners had built in 2001. The remodel to the home of Larry and Lisa Rice was named best "Residential Design/Outdoor Living Solution for \$60,000 and over" by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) metro DC chapter.

"We wanted an indoor/outdoor gathering place that would bring the whole family together," says Lisa, 56, a retired mother of teenage twins. "The rear of the house was originally conceived as a walk-out, but I realized later that I didn't want high decks. Once I saw the design problem more clearly, I was simply looking for a better set of options — albeit, ones I couldn't fully envision." Rice credits Craig Duroske, chairman and founder of Sun Design, with re-awakening her enthusiasm for the project by identifying and prioritizing its primary components.

"Craig got our vision" Lisa says. "It was his attention to our goals that revived my interest in moving forward."

In the end, the plan appreciably responds to the Rice family's passion for indoor-outdoor living.

❖ A 437-square-foot screened porch linked to the kitchen via a folding glass window provides a cozy, insect-free gathering spot. An eight-foot counter abut-



Best Outdoor Living Solution. A multi-component, multi-level rear elevation addition to a home in Oakton recently garnered a "Contractor of the Year" Grand Award for Sun Design Remodeling.

ting the "pass-thru" inside the porch facilitates service and dining. With a gas fireplace clad in stone and a flat screen TV, the porch can be fully used as an entertainment mecca nine months of the year;

❖ A formal dining area situated under a cedar pergola incorporates retractable awnings for shade;

❖ The 21-by-21-foot outdoor kitchen includes a built-in Wolf gas grill, a beverage center with refrigerator, an ice maker, a sink, and a stainless oval grill;

❖ Three steps down, the open air deck (22-by-28 feet) features a wood-burning hearth and a hot tub set-off by planters and gas torches — an inviting spot to deeply relax, even in cooler weather.

❖ A ground-level patio (16-by-19-feet) just outside the fully-appointed lower level family room offers a fire pit, and a quiet perch for stargazing.

"I always thought of the lower patio as a place where the kids could get away from the adults if they wanted," Lisa says. "On the other hand, Larry and I like it too."

Sun Design Remodeling is headquartered in Burke, Va. and also maintains an office in McLean. For More Information Visit: www.SunDesign.com or call 703-425-5588

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A tour group from George Mason University's Environmental and Sustainability Studies program pictured in front of "Big Blue," Fairfax County's glass crushing machine, on Friday, March 29, 2019, in Lorton.

Mason Students Visit Lorton Landfill

Seeing sustainability initiatives firsthand.

At the request of George Mason University's Environmental and Sustainability Studies program, a group of students were provided a classroom presentation and tour of Fairfax County's I-95 landfill complex in Lorton.

Charlie Forbes, branch chief for Recycling, Compliance, and Planning, delivered an overview of solid waste management and recycling in Fairfax County, then led a tour of the landfill, highlighting key environmental controls and recent sustainability initiatives. The students had lots of questions about challenges they'd heard about in the news; problems with certain recyclables, such as glass; and the future of recycling. Forbes unraveled some popular misconceptions about the global recycling market and waste-to-energy.

"Students and faculty were equally engaged, and the event ran well past scheduled time," Forbes said. "I thought it was proper to let them get all their questions out."

Forbes said student questions covered the gamut, from landfill gas to the uses of the adjacent former prison. They were particularly enthusiastic about "Big Blue," a machine that processes glass bottles and jars collected at recycling drop-off areas located throughout the region for use in

construction projects. The students sounded motivated to bring their families' glass to the drop-off centers.

"The most surprising thing for me is that the students wanted to see refuse close up, so we made a stop in the primary receiving area, where incoming vehicles discharge their waste," Forbes said. "The students were amazed at the variety of wastes being delivered to the site, from old kitchen appliances, to TVs and computers, to hazardous waste, to tree maintenance trimmings. They were particularly struck by the volume of lumber off-cuts and pallets that were arriving as municipal solid waste."

The students left with a much better understanding about what happens to trash and recycling once it leaves their curb. Tours like this help improve collection and disposal by educating the main participants – residents who generate waste. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services coordinates tours of key infrastructure for several of George Mason academic programs, and works closely with the university's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The Solid Waste Management Program also works in concert with George Mason's facilities management, a waste collection and recycling services customer.

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Public Meetings

Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. Hearings held in Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg will also provide opportunity for input on the I-95 Corridor Improvement Plan. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will consider your comments as it develops the FY2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds. Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 11, 2019.

Public hearings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 Lynchburg District Holiday Inn Lynchburg 601 Main St. Lynchburg, VA 24504	Monday, April 15, 2019 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Office Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Monday, April 22, 2019 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	Thursday, April 25, 2019 Richmond District Richmond Marriott - Short Pump 4240 Dominion Boulevard Glen Allen, VA 23060	Monday, May 6, 2019 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 Salem District Holiday Inn Tanglewood 4468 Starkey Road Roanoke, VA 24018	Thursday, May 9, 2019 Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.	Monday, May 13, 2019 NOVA District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia.

Beginning at 3 p.m. (except in Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg, which will begin at 5 p.m.), there will also be an open house with information and opportunities for public feedback on the statewide, multimodal transportation plan, known as VTrans. This open house will be the first of four for the new plan update and will cover the vision and goals for the plan as well as information on the required statewide multimodal Needs Assessment. More information can be found at www.VTrans.org or via email at comment@vtrans.org. There is no formal hearing for the VTrans open house.

You can also submit your comments via email or mail by May 27, 2019, to:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 11-13

August: Osage County. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling mysteries. This play contains strong language and adult content. \$17-\$20. Email tickets@providenceplayers.org, call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org.

Spring New Dances. 8 p.m. in the Harris Theatre on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Meet the next generation of contemporary choreographers. \$15 adults/\$10 seniors. Get tickets at cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/spring-new-dances.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Benefit: Fashion Show Luncheon. 10:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. The Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will hold their 39th Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon. Fashions will be presented by Lord & Taylor of Fair Oaks. Featured will be children, ladies and men's fashions. There will also be a silent auction of more than 100 items to bid on to support the fundraiser. Also featured will be a Jewelry Nook, Attic Treasures and a Hat Contest. \$45 each. Reservation deadline is March 27. Contact Jo Porter at 703-690-5245 or jp.sawa@cox.com.

Gardening with Herbs. 1-2 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn about the benefits of herb gardening. Topics covered will include planning an herb garden, selecting plants, and caring for a garden. This presentation has lots of photographs for ideas. Free. Email sonal.gosai@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-447-7333 for more.

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 for more.

Mystical Movie Night: Heaven Is...Real. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join Unity of Fairfax on the second Friday of the month for mindful movies. "Heaven Is For Real" tells the story of a young boy's near-death experience. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

Pablo Sáinz Villegas. 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Praised as "the soul of the Spanish guitar," guitar virtuoso Pablo Sáinz Villegas presents Americano, a program that traces the history of the guitar in the Americas. Family-friendly. \$46, \$39, \$28. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/pablo-s-225-inz-villegas for tickets.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Kite Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a day of kite flying and family fun during the annual Kite Festival. With children's activities, crafts, and guided tours, there will be fun for all ages. Bring, buy, or make a kite at the festival. The local Lions Club will sell lunch and snacks for nominal fees, cash preferred. Admission \$8-\$10. Call 703-550-9220 or visit gunstonhall.org/event/kite-festival.

Hispanic Book Festival of Virginia. Noon-6:30 p.m. in the Johnson Center Room 337 (3rd Floor), on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Raices Latinas Press, The Hispanic Culture Review Mason's bilingual graduate journal of literature and art, and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at George Mason University present the third annual Hispanic Book Festival of Virginia. This interactive event seeks to promote reading and foster a greater appreciation of books and the written word. This year's authors and special guests include Peruvian author Luis Hernán Castañeda, Oswaldo Estrada, Martivón Galindo, Hemil García Linares, Fernando Olszanski, and more. Free admission. Email editorialraiceslatinas@gmail.com for more.

Cooking Tuscan Recipes. 2-3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Join Chef Cal Kraft as he presents a taste of Tuscany. Bring the Italian countryside all the way home. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-568-5600

(option 4) or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4850436 for more.

Chorale Broadway Showcase. 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Presented by the Mason School of Music, this University choir performs traditional choral literature in its annual spring Broadway Showcase. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/chorale-broadway-showcase for tickets.

Fairfax Jubil-Aires Show. 3-5:15 at Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires 63rd Annual Show: Best of the Jubil-aires. The Jubil-Aires will sing favorites from their last nine shows. Also featured, The Bella Nova Chorus. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for tickets.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Brass Ensemble Concert. 1 p.m. in the Harris Theatre, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. The Mason Brass Ensemble explores all musical styles in a very challenging and creative environment. The conductor tailors music especially for this ever-changing ensemble of brass and percussion players, who strive for new levels of musical excellence on their instruments. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/brass-ensemble-concert for details.

Artist Reception: "Simply Spring." 1-5 p.m. at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery presents "Simply Spring," an exhibit featuring photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield, fiber work by Lauren Jacobs and jewelry by Tyler



PHOTO BY ARTHUR FOURNIER

2018 Britain on the Green best of show winner, a 1954 Allard K2 owned by Robert Morris of Great Falls.

Britain on the Green

The 22nd Britain on the Green show will feature two hundred British cars and motorcycles, music, food trucks, youth activities, and admission to Gunston Hall and grounds. Sunday, April 28, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. \$10 adult; \$5 children 6-18. Visit www.capitaltriumphregister.com/bog/ or call 703-522-6571.

Kulenguski. The exhibit runs April 2-May 6. The gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays). Call 703-494-0584 or email info@artistsundertaking.com.

Rugby Demo/Clinic. 4-5:30 p.m. at Franconia Park, 6400 Bowie Drive, Springfield. Demo/clinic for new and experienced players. SYC West End offers three sports: 15s Tackle, 7s Tackle, and Tag Rugby. 15s and 7s rugby is for girls and boys from grades 3-12; 15s play in the spring and 7s in the summer, governed by Rugby Virginia. A House Tag league runs in May and June with the opportunity to play matches against other Rugby Virginia clubs. Visit www.sycva.com/rugby.

Jazz Workshop Concert. 7 p.m. in the Harris Theatre, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Jazz Saxophone faculty, Rick Parrell directs the Mason Jazz Workshop big band in concert. The



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Visitors browsing at the George Mason Friends Book Sale

George Mason Friends Book Sale

Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. Come early for the best selection, then come back on Sunday for half-price bargains. Thursday, April 25, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, April 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, April 28, noon-5 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Free admission. Visit georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com or call 703-813-6616.

Mason Symphony Orchestra & University Chiors. 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. The Mason Symphony Orchestra is comprised of string, wind, and percussion players from throughout the School of Music, but is open for participation by all qualified musicians pursuing any major at George Mason University. A seating audition is required for all members. In addition to performing works from the standard orchestral repertoire, the Symphony Orchestra routinely performs with the university choruses, and occasionally features new works by student composers, as well as commissioned works by faculty and other composers. \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 youth through 12. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-symphony-orchestra-amp-university-choirs for tickets.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Book Talk: Carter Glass. 7-8:30 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax City. A free presentation on Virginia politician Carter Glass, "the "father of the Federal Reserve System," and his relevance to today's financial headlines. Free. Registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-293-6227, ext 6. for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

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 for more.

Various Chamber Ensemble Concert I. 7 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A323, Music Studio, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Join the Mason Chamber Ensemble as they present a variety of works. Free and open to the public. Free and open to the public. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/various-chamber-ensemble-concert-i for details.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Easter Egg Hunt. 9-11 a.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join Franconia UMC for an Easter Egg Hunt for all children from toddlers to 12th grade. The festivities start at 9 a.m. with breakfast and Easter egg hunting starts at 10:30. Free. Visit franconiaumc.org or call 703-971-5151.

Model Classic 2019. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society presents an annual exhibit of scale models, an educational and fun event for the entire family. The event features a display of hundreds of museum quality scale models; a modeling contest, with over 80 categories; model kit, book and supplies vendors; raffle prizes; demonstrations; and a make and take event for children. Adults, \$8; under 18 free; \$10 per family; contestants, \$10 (includes admission). Visit www.novaipms.org for more.

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet for more.

Easter Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Jubilee Christian Center is sponsoring its annual Easter Eggstravaganza, in the grassy area behind the Fairfax County Government Center. The event is free, including egg rolls, moon bounces, face painting, games, and door prizes (at 1:45 and 2:45 p.m.). Call 703-383-1170 or visit www.jccag.org for more.

Parsons Dance. 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. New York City-based Parsons Dance is internationally celebrated for creating and performing American modern dance that is positive, life-affirming, enriching, and accessible. This ensemble has spread the joy of dance in more than 447 cities, 30 countries, and five continents. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. Family-friendly. \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/parsons-dance for tickets.



This drawing shows the pedestrian plaza (at far left), as one of the uses within the hotel, plus the office and bank.

Council Weighs in on Hotel Project

Concerned about traffic, but excited about the idea.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

After listening to last week's presentation about a major hotel and associated amenities possibly coming to Fairfax, members of the City Council had suggestions, questions and concerns. But no doubt about it—what they heard also got them excited.

Councilwoman Jennifer Passey liked the idea of “bringing some vibrancy” to the area of West and Main streets and was also pleased that the game industry could come to Fairfax. And, she said, “I see the open space as a continuation of our downtown park.”

Councilwoman So Lim asked what kind of residential units are planned, but applicant Chris Smith said they're looking at all the other uses first and then will decide, “This would be exciting for the City—especially the theater and partnership with George Mason—as long as we can keep the traffic under control,” said Lim.

“Where would the theater fit in?” asked Councilwoman Janice Miller. Smith said it would be in the hotel. But, said architect Faik Tugberk, actually two theaters are planned. One is a round, Shakespearean-type for performances; the other, much smaller, would be like a black-box theater of 6,000 or 7,000 square feet and would be for the gaming use.

Councilman Michael DeMarco said Fairfax and GMU have discussed “having a true, theatrical performance space with a real stage, instead of a black box. It would be nice to have a 12,000-square-foot, 200-person theater.” Smith replied, “If we can fit it, we'll do it.”

“I'm excited about the idea of getting people to come and stay here,” said Councilman Jon Stehle. “And to give a space, off campus, for that to occur, is fantastic. We don't have rooftops where people can have special moments; and if you give people that space, they'll come back.”

Agreeing, Councilman Sang Yi said, “I love this concept and what it could do for our City. The economic boon it could provide is incredible. But I'm terrified about the traffic it could bring.” He then asked the applicant to study “having all the North-Main-West street traffic go east,” instead of straight onto Main, as now.

But if that happened, countered Smith, “Then people coming to this project from the west wouldn't be able to get into it easily. And the traffic coming here from the west would turn into the hotel before reaching that intersection.”

Yi also wondered if there'd be enough parking for the theater, but Smith said the various uses would happen at different times, so traffic wouldn't all flow in there at the same time. Tugbert added that, once ground was broken, it would take about two years to build everything.

“There's strong support for doing something bold on this site,” said Mayor David Meyer. “In keeping with our Comprehensive Plan, this creates another activity area along Main Street and it would create adjacent destination places. And creating more variety of experiences brings diversity to downtown. This intersection has the potential to be one of our leading intersections.”

“We have more than one community theater, and they're hungry for a place to perform,” he told the applicant. “The hotel speaks for itself—we have to have that to make the other things work and to attract a flagship vendor with staying power. There are still a lot of issues to be worked out; but overall, it's quite positive. I encourage you to continue to work with staff and put in further details, and I commend you on the quality of thought you put into this project.”

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News

Allstate Volunteers, Assistance League Join Forces to Provide

Allstate Insurance Company recently held its first Capital Regional Advisory Board meeting of 2019. Assistance League of Northern Virginia was pleased that its Weekend Food for Kids program was once again featured as Allstate's volunteer service activity.

Lynn Barron and Karen Amster, board members from the Assistance League, an all-volunteer nonprofit, were invited to speak about Assistance League's program that decreases childhood hunger and other philanthropic programs that benefit low-income children in Northern Virginia. Sharee Merenov, Allstate Capital Region division manager, corporate relations, coordinated the resources and purchased the nonperishable food items to support The Allstate Foundation Helping Hands in the Community group activity.

A team of 40 Allstate volunteers and seven Assistance League volunteers packed nearly 500 bags of food for children who might otherwise go hungry on weekends.

Partnering with Allstate allowed Assistance League to satisfy an immediate need for food assistance at two Title I elementary schools not currently supported by the food program.

Thanks go to Shaundra Turner Jones, Allstate Capital Region senior corporate relations manager, Robert Becker, Allstate Capital Region field senior vice



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A team of 40 Allstate volunteers and seven Assistance League volunteers packed nearly 500 bags of food for children.

president and Christine Angles, Manassas Allstate exclusive agent, for supporting the Assistance League mission to transform the lives of children and strengthen community.

See www.alnv.org for further information on Assistance League programs.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 4

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/APRIL 11-12

Fairfax County Job Fair. 4-7 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Come attend the 2019 Fairfax County Job Fair. Learn about a variety of careers with various county agencies. Representatives of SkillsSource and DARS will also be on site. Free. Email Debra.Prica@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr/sites/hr/files/assets/documents/jobfair2019flyer.pdf for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Palm Sunday Cantata. 10-11:30 a.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The service will include a children's Palm Sunday parade, music by the adult choir, and contemporary selections by the praise band. Free. Visit franconiaumc.org or call 703-971-5151.

22 Proven Processes to Improve Your Point of Attraction. 1-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A class that focuses on abundance processes and based on the book "Ask and It Is Given" by Esther and Jerry Hicks. Donations accepted. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events for more.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week. At Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. All are welcome. Visit www.kofc.org or call the church office 703-378-7272.

♦ **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion,** April 14 – 8 and 10 a.m.

♦ **Maundy Thursday,** April 18 – 7 p.m.

♦ **Good Friday,** April 19 – 12:15pm and 7pm

♦ **Easter Sunday,** April 21 – Festival Worship, 8 and 10 a.m.

♦ **Dulles South Easter Sunrise Service** – 7 a.m. at Brambleton Golf Course Pavilion.

Holy Week. At St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Visit www.stmarks-elca.org.

♦ **Palm-Passion,** Sunday, April 14 – 8:30 and 10 a.m. (English) and noon (Spanish).

♦ **Holy Wednesday Prayer Service** – 7 p.m. (Spanish) with soup to follow.

♦ **Holy Thursday** – 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (English)

♦ **Good Friday** – noon and 7:30 p.m. (English) and 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)

♦ **Easter Sunday,** April 21 – 6:30 a.m. (Spanish); 8:30 a.m. (English); 10:30 a.m. (English). Potluck Easter breakfasts served between services.

Holy Week. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit www.pohick.org.

♦ **Palm Sunday,** April 14 – Liturgy of the Palms and Passion Narrative at 7:45, 9, and 11:15 a.m.

♦ **Maundy Thursday,** April 18 – Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.

♦ **Good Friday,** April 19th – Good Friday Observance at noon-2 p.m.

♦ **Easter Sunday,** April 21 – Festival Holy Eucharist at 7:45, 9:15, and 11:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

Volunteers Wanted. 10:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army Corp building, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary are seeking volunteers for their upcoming events. Meetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday, September through May. Call Lori Smith at 703-830-3520 or Sylvia Laiti at 703-830-8849.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Application Deadline. Leadership Fairfax is now accepting applications for its premier professional leadership development programs – Leadership Fairfax Institute and Emerging Leaders Institute. The 10-month programs begin September 2019. Classes meet once a month and participants work outside of class with a cohort to plan and implement projects. The programs build participant knowledge of community topics, legislative processes, leadership assessments, and strategic interactions. Limited scholarships available. Applications are due April 19. Call 703-752-7555 or visit leadershipfairfax.org.

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As It Has So Happened



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So far, four bi-weekly immunotherapy-infusions into my initial non-chemotherapy experience, per the encouraging results from my CT scan in mid March, I remain optimistic but cautiously neutral as I prepare to infuse three more times before my next scan in mid May.

However I feel, and however I've felt, ultimately the CT scan – and to a lesser degree – my lab results, will do the talking, so to speak. What it will say will be interpreted by my oncologist who in turn will explain/summarize it to us in person a week or so after the scan.

That's when I'll know how I'm doing. And how I'm doing of course means how much longer I'll be living. A more stressful appointment you can't imagine.

What I'm sure you can imagine is how high my blood pressure will be as we sit in the examining room waiting for my oncologist to knock on the door asking if it's OK to come in.

And when he comes in, he usually smiles and shakes our hands and then immediately sits behind the computer where he proceeds to ask the standard health- and fitness-type questions. Then he might even examine me (not all the time – as he has said, the scan tells him most of what he needs to know) before he addresses the elephant in the room (metaphorically speaking, although I have gained a few pounds).

Dina and I don't exactly hold hands but we are holding our collective breath as we prepare to hang on his every syllable. This exchange of pleasantries happens every eight weeks or so. In the interim, I am encouraged to email my oncologist with any questions or concerns, particularly if new symptoms develop and persist for two to three weeks.

Well, I did have something happening to me the other Saturday, the day after my last immunotherapy infusion which, treatment-to-date, had not happened.

When I awoke that morning, I was unable to summon up the strength/energy to get out of bed. It felt similar to my early days of heavy-duty chemotherapy, when due to the destruction of your red blood cells (and white cells, too), you can barely move. There was no pain, but neither was there any energy.

Simply put: the tank was empty. I could barely roll over in bed, let alone get up, walk downstairs and feed the cats. This kind of extreme post-immunotherapy fatigue was a first. All previous post-immunotherapy Saturdays were not the least bit similar or different than any other day.

I did not, nor have I since, emailed my oncologist with any of these details. At this juncture, I consider it an aberration and not worthy of an overreaction.

For all I know, to invoke an old punchline, my underwear was too tight.

As such, I will wait until my next infusions and see if the following morning follows an old or new pattern. If it's new, I will email my oncologist.

It's ironic that this situation occurred a few days after last week's column "It's Not As If My Life Depends On It" published. The content of which was my anxiety concerning emailing my oncologist about new symptoms/side effects for fear that in so doing, my oncologist would be for stopping my treatment. And in stopping my treatment, there is then nothing stopping the cancer.

This is some of what I've heard over the years; it's not so much the cancer that gets you as it is the side effects which cause the treatment to have to stop which then enables the cancer to then do what it most horrifyingly does (you'll note I didn't say inevitably).

But I'm not an alarmist, nor an "overreactionist," (to make up a word as I so often do). I've survived 10+ years by being neither.

I try to go about my cancer business as any other and live life as normally – for me – as possible. I am not gloom and doom and for me, the glass is always half full. And even though I'm in the middle of a big negative, I'm still positive.

After all, I'm a member of Red Sox Nation; hope forever springs eternal.

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

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