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Fairfax Station Clifton & Lorton

HomeLifeStyle
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Burke Lake Train: Tough and Nostalgic

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Mason Students Visit Lorton Landfill

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Making School a Welcoming Place

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Park manager Keith O'Connor knows the popularity of this train at Burke Lake Park. The tracks, switches and signals are real and require real attention, just like on the full-sized railroads out there. "This is all real train stuff," O'Connor said.

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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.

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.kofk.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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Opening weekend for Burke Lake Park was a popular attraction.



The caboose is a popular place to sit.

Burke Lake Train: Tough and Nostalgic

The train is a big draw in the summer.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The C.P. Huntington rolled out of storage on Saturday, April 6, thrilling riders with the whistle, the bell and nostalgia as the replica train chugged along on the rails at Burke Lake Park. The train is 1/3 scale of a full-size train, and a mainstay for park patrons.

Park manager Keith O'Connor has witnessed several generations of families at Burke Lake Park riding the train, and the word has spread around because not every park has a train. "People know about our train," he said.

THE TRAIN runs on the weekends only until Memorial Day, and then it's every day

until after Labor Day when it goes back to weekends only. In the late fall, it's parked back in the tunnel. The current C.P. Huntington is number 343, which is the second train owned by the park. Train number 62 was the original, and it's still at the park, but is only used for a promotional set up.

Fairfax Station resident Bill Koch was a driver for years until he died recently. "He loved this train," O'Connor said. His son Ron Pearson still works there and his duties include maintenance to the train and tracks when needed. His father's train experience started with the prison train when Lorton Reformatory was still operating, and he brought that knowledge and love of trains to Burke Lake, and his love of trains spread to his son Ron who started working at Burke Lake while attending Robinson High School. "The Park Authority is a big part of my life

and I have enjoyed every position I have had and all the great people I have worked with through the years," Ron Pearson said. "All of which would have not happened if my dad had not gotten me a job at the train when I was in high school."

EACH SEASON, the park employs four different drivers, and the park encourages they take on the role of the conductor, but there is no uniform supplied, although most have gotten hats and a pair of overalls to use. "It's up to them," O'Connor said. The tracks, switches and signals are real and require real attention, just like on the full-sized railroads out there. "This is all real train stuff," O'Connor said, pointing to a switch near the tunnel. "Kids love the tunnel," he said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



The track switches are authentic at Burke Lake Park.

Although a train ride with the wedding party or a sports team would make great pictures, the park does not rent it out during regular park hours for that. If a group would like that kind of thing, it has to be off hours and arranged through the park office. "We try and make accommodations for special groups," he said. There is a special car for wheelchairs and they can hook it up to the train quickly. The income from the train is a big part of the park's budget.

C.P. Huntington

The C.P. Huntington was named after Collis Potter Huntington, a railroad pioneer that was big in the early railroads, especially out west. The C. P. Huntington train is a 4-2-4T steam locomotive on static display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, Calif. The replica train was the first product of Chase Manufacturing in 1961, that now builds carnival rides and roller coasters too at their 310,000 sq. ft. factory in Wichita, Kan.

"It's a replica of 1800s western train," said Larry Breitenstein, the National Sales Director at Chance Rides, Inc., and they're operated all over the country, including the St. Louis Zoo which has four trains. They are sturdy and don't wear out easily, said Breitenstein. "We have trains operating out there from the '60s and '70s," he said. One was used in a Claritin allergy medicine commercial at the Santa Barbara Zoo, and Michael Jackson had one running in Neverland Ranch, also in California.

Around Burke Lake, if it's during the warmer months, the train must go on, said O'Connor, "they're tough." If it's down, "people get upset," he said, and mechanics are called in all hours of the night to fix it. "The train has to go," he said. O'Connor once took all the wooden benches to his father's house and refinished them.



In the 1800's, C.P. Huntington was a figure in the country's railroad industry.

OPINION

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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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 Durosko, 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



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON FRIENDS
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 Choirs. 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.

NEWS



Making School a Welcoming Place

On a recent teacher workday and student holiday, South County High students spent their day volunteering instead of sleeping late or hanging out with friends. While teachers worked on grades, the students were hard at work making their school a welcoming place, painting the hall as part of a Student Council project and helping Chef David Long build and move new tables into the Gourmet Foods classroom. English teacher Jennifer Delinski noted, "It made grading a little easier remembering how awesome these kids can be."



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Announcements

News

**Allstate Volunteers, Assistance League Join Forces to
Provide Food for Kids**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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



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.

Fairfax Parks Announce Poetry Contest Winners

Young poets will get their Game On with readings of their award-winning poetry during Springfest at Sully Historic Site on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

To honor National Poetry Month in April, the Park Authority asked young people in grades K-8 to submit poems inspired by the fun, joy and excitement found in Fairfax parks.

In response to an increase in submissions of outstanding poetry, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Park Foundation awarded three winners in each category instead of two. The winners in each grade category of the poetry contest are:

Grades K-2

❖ Emma Davis of Alexandria, a

kindergarten student at Mount Eagle Elementary School

❖ Lauren Miller of Chantilly, a first-grader at Lees Corner Elementary School

❖ Zoya Quraishi of Ashburn, a kindergarten homeschool student

Grades 3-5

❖ Elias Rhee of Fairfax, a fifth-grader at Mantua Elementary School

❖ Naomi Rucker of Springfield, a fifth-grader at West Springfield Elementary School

❖ Bianca Volociuc of Fairfax, a fourth-grader at Fairhill Elementary School

Grades 6-8

❖ Ashley Chon of Vienna, a sixth-grader at Colvin Run Elementary School

❖ Aabaq Gaffar of Vienna, a sixth-

grader at Mosby Woods Elementary School

❖ Betty Schlageter-Prettyman of Vienna, a sixth-grader at Fairhill Elementary School

Stop by to hear these poets share their works at the Springfest Poetry Showcase at 10:30 a.m. April 27. The award winners will receive a \$50 Park Authority gift card to allow them to continue exploring Fairfax parks all year long. This contest is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Park Foundation. Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. For more information, email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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Announcements



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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Holy Meditation Retreat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Holy Saturday Meditation Retreat: Spend the day in noble silence, meditating and creating a space to be still and listen. Donations accepted. Register at unityoffairfax.org/events.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

New Thought Easter. At Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Thought Easter Service: 6:15 a.m. outdoors on the Labyrinth (weather permitting), 9 and 11 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for the younger members of the Unity community will follow the 11 a.m. service. Free. Visit unityoffairfax.org.

Easter Sunday Service. 10-11:30 a.m. at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. Harvester Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). All are welcome. No charge; offering will be taken. Visit www.harvesterpca.org or call 703-455-7800 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 23

Student Environmental Action Showcase 2019. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) is a regional event welcoming students to amplify the youth voice in environmental problem-solving. Student presenters, green/eco teams, and classroom groups share their projects reducing waste, conserving energy, improving water quality, and preserving natural habitat in their schoolyards and communities. Visit www.novaoutside.org/events/school-environmental-action-showcase for more.

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. in the West Springfield Elementary School cafeteria, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Springfield District Supervisor's office will hold a public meeting to discuss a proposal to install lighting at Hooes Road Park. The proposal also calls for lighting the parking lot and the path leading to the fields. For more information about the meeting, call Mohamed Kadasi at 703-324-8693.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon High School. These events will focus on student job seekers (approximately ages 16-18) looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teen-job-fair-student-registration to register.

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-Thomas Fuller

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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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