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Fairfax Station **CONNECTION** Clifton & Lorton

Supervisor Storck with Marvin Miller, a supporter from Mason Neck during the Storck's Earth Day event in Lorton.

Earth Day Celebrated in Lorton

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Join us for our **Second Saturday Art Walk** from 6p-9p on the second Saturday of each month. It's the perfect time to meet nearly 100 Studio and Arches Gallery Artists who create art in their studios and exhibit in our galleries. Enjoy thrilling performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in unique classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the world. And explore art exhibitions featuring the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art.

All this excitement and more is tucked away at the Workhouse Arts Center, a 55-acre visual and performing arts center in Lorton, VA, located on the historic grounds of the former DC Correctional Facility at Lorton.

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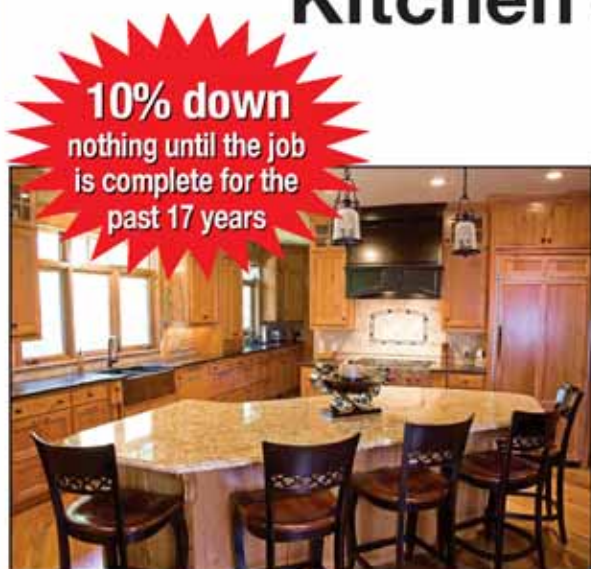


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Cricket Brownies and Solar Energy Highlight Storck's Earth Day Event

Mount Vernon Supervisor focuses on the environment to spearhead campaign season.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The brownies being passed around at Supervisor Dan Storck's (D-Mount Vernon) earth day event had an earthy ingredients most did seem to mind, which was insects, earning them the name "Bug Bites." There was enough sugar and chocolate that the bug taste didn't come through that strongly, but it provided a recycling theme that Storck wants to take with him in his re-election effort over the next six months.

"Real crickets inside," he said with a smile.

A big point on his agenda is "to address the environmental health of our county," he said.

He picked the residence of Camela Speer, the communications director in Storck's office, an environmentally friendly home, to hold the Earth Day event. Speer's house, right across the street from the Workhouse Art Center, "blends elements of efficiency and sustainability," the fact sheet stated. It's an all-electric house that generates so much solar energy that they sell some back to the company. They have a 1500-gallon cistern for recycling rainwater, hydronic radiant flooring, low reflective argon-filled encasement windows, a bamboo trellis out back, and a couple of chickens for fresh eggs.

Is it possible for others in the county to adopt measures like this?



Brownies made with crickets, yummy!

"I know that it is," said Storck, "energy efficiency pays for itself," he added. In his own house, he's put in extra insulation, used light colored shingles on the roof to reflect heat, and keeps his thermostat down so his electric bill is only about \$50, he said.

Bigger Picture

The Mount Vernon District is bordered entirely by the Potomac River on the eastern edge, and this puts it on ground zero if the sea level rises due to global warming.

"New Alexandria and Belle View would be especially impacted by climate change," he said. The Fairfax Green Initiative is something Storck stands behind, that "lays out the goals that I have to accelerate our efforts towards climate change," he said. "The Potomac River could rise, the storms, hurricanes, superstorms could be more harmful to the lower areas," he said.

Inside Speer's house, "it was our vision," said Wes Speer. "I was happy to share," the extra energy the house creates with the solar panels and other measures they've taken.



A bamboo plant trellis was one earthy feature in the yard.



Supervisor Storck with Marvin Miller, a supporter from Mason Neck during the Storck's Earth Day event in Lorton.

"No off gassing," he said, which means the paints and other finishes were not toxic, and the stones used in various places are from Vulcan Quarry.

Also at the event was Karen Corbett Sanders from the Fairfax County School Board. She's worked with the Board of Supervisors on a Joint Environmental Task Force, which Storck is also addressing.

Vienna resident Helene Shore says she has supported Storck on the environment and a group she's on called "350 Fairfax."

"It's all grass roots," she said.

Transportation Alternatives During Metro Shutdown

Free parking at Franconia-Springfield, Huntington Metro stations to join a slug line, catch a Fairfax Connector bus, or catch a WMATA express shuttle.

BY SHARON BULOVA,
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



In response to Metro's shutdown of six Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Ronald Reagan International Airport this summer, Fairfax County is dedicated to ensuring commuters have access to alternative transportation options and the latest up-to-date information about the shutdown. In the Letter to the Editor How to Handle Metro Nightmare, (Connection, April 22)

resident Nicole Miller asked "What will happen to those currently parking [for slugging]? Will we be shut out of parking due to the increased need for rides to the city?"

The good news is, in Fairfax County, the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station and the Huntington Metro Station will offer free parking during the Metro summer shutdown of the Blue and Yellow Lines. Commuters can park in these parking lots (which have a combined total of 8,686 spaces) and from there, join a slug line, catch a Fairfax Connector bus, or catch a WMATA express

shuttle to help them get to work. Since parking at these stations is currently under capacity by about 50 percent, we believe there will be more than enough spaces available for commuters participating in ridesharing, bus riding and shuttle riding. Free parking will also be available at the surface parking lot at the Van Dorn Street Metro Station.

To respond to increased demand for alternative transportation options during the Metro shutdown, Fairfax Connector will add increased bus service on Route 393 and 394 and reduce intervals to ten minutes during commuting hours. WMATA will run express shuttles to the Pentagon stations, where Metro will be operating and can take com-

muters into downtown D.C.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation has been involved in outreach efforts to commuters through letters to employers, social media posts, email/text alerts through Fairfax Alerts, and the creation of a new webpage outlining transportation alternatives during Metro's shutdown: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/travel-alerts/metro-platforms.

Similar to when Metro launched SafeTrack in 2016, Fairfax County encourages commuters to plan for alternate travel options such as bus connections, ridesharing, telework and alternate work schedules as WMATA tackles important platform and safety improvements.

OPINION

Black or Blue: Lessons Learned from How Virginia Democrats Handled the Ralph Northam Debacle

Let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy.

BY KOFI ANNAN
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

During a 1960 speech to a mixed audience in New York City, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There is a pressing need for a liberalism in the North which is truly liberal." While Virginia is a southern state, it gets bluer with each election, therefore we should take heed to MLK's words, which essentially challenges liberals to fight the gravitational pull to the right on issues of civil rights and equity. It is difficult to see both the election of Ralph Northam, his subsequent actions, and the actions of the party to protect him as anything but the party signaling to the center-right that they have their back and are willing to sacrifice a few black voters if need be.

Liberals have long sought to convince African Americans that they alone can shield us from conservative's intent on rolling back the hands of time. And African Americans normally respond to that message, having never wavered in our loyalty for the last half century. Every election cycle we make or break elections in favor of the Democratic Party, even though for the most part we get marginal improvement in our quality of life overall, and in many measurable ways we actually regress. Our average collective net worth remains a fraction of whites, our employment rate remains half that of whites, our neighborhoods are still gentrified in the name of progress, predominantly black public schools are still underfunded, we still make up 40 percent of the nations' incarcerated, and school administrators still consistently dole out harsher punishments to our kids compared to their white counterparts, even in districts dominated by Democratic Party leadership. A report from the Institute for Policy Studies, released to coincide with what would have been MLK's 90th birthday, demonstrated that over the past few decades, black wealth actually fell by 50%.

On the other hand, Republicans haven't presented a particularly appealing message to African Americans voters at any point during this time period either, and even less so during the Trump Administration, which uses racism and xenophobia to collect votes as effectively as any administration in recent history. However, what's more intriguing is the possibility that Democrats like Northam view Trump's success as a reason to shift focus on securing the white middle-class vote even if that means sacrificing some of the African American vote, or at least taking the black vote for granted. After all, the politics of "fear the racist Republican" is a lot easier to sell today than it was just a few years ago. This might explain why presidential favorite Pete Buttigieg felt comfortable proposing that he would undo decades of work to expand voting rights to those convicted of crimes, who are disproportionately represented

by minorities.

This certainly appears to be the case in Virginia. Most of us are familiar with the controversy surrounding Governor Northam and his possible Ku Klux Klan (KKK) affiliation by now, right? Perhaps I shouldn't assume. Maybe you were one of those that ignored the Klan member in the photograph, and instead saw this incident as a [less harmful] 'blackface' controversy that could be explained by innocent cultural insensitivity. But let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy. A lot of people - including the governor - would rather focus on the person in blackface because it's a slightly more tolerant form of white supremacy, and conveniently ignore the terrorist next to the individual in blackface. But the governor should not be let off the hook that easily. The KKK is America's original domestic terrorist group (despite what the laws say), having killed well over 4,000 Americans that we know of, and our governor either is or was associated with them. Let that sink in, particularly as we still mourn the loss of another group of innocent lives at the hands of other terrorist groups in New Zealand a few weeks ago, Pittsburgh, Charlottesville, and most recently Sri Lanka. The leader of the Democratic Party in Virginia has yet to offer a sensible explanation for why a terrorist was in his yearbook, and the Democratic Party is okay enough with this that they're now openly not only defending him but trotting him out at political fundraisers.

To most the case against Northam seemed open and shut, and his resignation seemed inevitable. One would imagine that an elected official who represents the party which prides itself on its diversity, that routinely secures over 90% of the African American vote, and counts on that constituency to win key battleground territories in a purple state that was red just a few elections ago, would certainly recognize that defending the governor is not a hill worth dying on and step aside as quickly and as gracefully as possible.

Well we're now approaching May and not only has Northam refused to step aside, but even more unfortunate the Democratic Party has begun to rally around him in a show of solidarity. First came the slow drip of messages of appreciation from members of the General Assembly for one bill after the other on social media. Then the ridiculous Michael Jackson impersonation story that once seemed straight out of a bad SNL skit became the official party line. As for the "Coonman" nickname in his VMI yearbook that never received a formal explanation from the governor? Well one explanation floated to me by a Democratic member of in the Virginia House of Delegates - who happened to be African American - was an even greater insult to our intelligence, and full of even more racist stereotypes. According to the delegate the governor's nickname stemmed

from the fact that he had a lot of black friends due to his love of basketball.

As if insulting our intelligence wasn't bad enough, many within the Democratic Party felt it necessary to go after those amplifying the call for the governor's resignation. Following a protest led the Fairfax County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at a Democratic fundraiser where the governor was scheduled to attend, Democratic Party loyalists and leaders alike attacked the NAACP for doing the very thing the organization was founded for - standing up against racism. Its members were described as "troublemakers" and "bullies"; and the nation's oldest and most successful civil rights organization is described as a "fringe element" by one party leader.

One of the talking points coming from Virginia's Democrats is that "the governor isn't going anywhere, so we might as well work with him." This intentionally alleviates the burden of responsibility from the rest of the party leadership, because it makes them seem powerless, when in reality they really don't want to challenge him anyway. As the reaction to the protests demonstrated, real challenges to the governor will not be looked upon favorably by the Democratic Party. If they'll publicly assassinate the NAACP, one could only imagine what private pressure is being placed on African American legislators who dare break ranks. This likely explains the deafening silence and acquiescence from most black elected officials on this issue.

Not enough black leaders (elected and community leaders alike) stand with the black community on principle when it matters most; and if they can't stand on principle when it comes to the KKK, when will they? If they can't break ranks with the party now, when will they? Black leaders stood next to Hillary Clinton when she called our youth "super predators", and they stood next to Bill when he doubled down on Reagan's mass incarceration policies. We're often told that the solution is electing more African American to office; but if this is the best they can do when faced with a such a clear-cut choice in a time of crisis, then their true value to the African American community is questionable.

If these officials don't have what it takes to tackle overt headline-grabbing racism within their own ranks, how can they be trusted to tackle systemic racism that doesn't make headlines. The numbers highlighting African American wealth decline speak for themselves. They can't.

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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.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Ramadan Pack-Out Session. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. at 6820 Commercial Drive, Suite F, Springfield. Islamic Relief USA will hold its annual Ramadan Food Box Pack-Out sessions where volunteers pack boxes with many nonperishable foods. The packages will be given to people in need in their local communities through food pantries and houses of worship. Call 703-370-7202 or visit irusa.org

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic.

Noon-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 8

Belvoir Toastmasters Meeting.

4:45-5:45 p.m. at Andrew T. McNamara Building Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Room: 3501 (Third Floor), 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir. All are welcome. Free refreshments will be provided. An escort may be required to enter the building, contact the group. Call 703-789-4798 or visit belvoir.toastmastersclubs.org.

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting.

7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Digital Citizenship: Tips for Parents.

10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Digital Citizenship can be described as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior, impact on self and others, with regard to technology use. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center

Volunteer Seminar.

10:30 a.m. at Volunteer Fairfax's headquarters, 10700 Page Ave., Suite 101, Fairfax. RSVP-Northern Virginia will hold a seminar on volunteering in retirement. RSVP offers more than 300 meaningful opportunities that include helping seniors age in place, assisting local food pantries, and

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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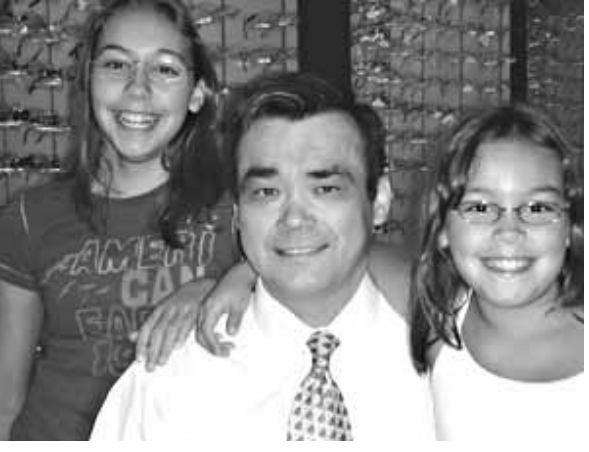
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WELLBEING



Schar Cancer Institute rendering.

Schar Cancer Institute Opens to Patients May 13

Institute becomes a landmark for health care and research in Fairfax County

The Inova Health System will usher in a new level of medical treatment and patient care when the Inova Schar Cancer Institute opens to patients May 13 on its Merrifield campus.

"The Schar Cancer Center raises the already-high level of health-care facilities in Fairfax County," said Catherine W. Riley, interim president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. "As part of the Inova Center for Personalized Health it can make Fairfax County a destination for world-class research and clinical work."

Dedication ceremonies took place Wednesday, April 24, for the \$150 million center for care and research that is anchoring the 117-acre Inova campus, fulfilling a vision that began with the acquisition of the former Exxon Mobil site. The institute was made possible, in part, by a \$50 million contribution from Dwight Schar and wife Martha, whose legacy will extend beyond Fairfax County-based NVR home builders.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHAR FAMILY were joined by others, including U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and wife Marcelle, political commentator Cokie Roberts, and Lara Hopewell, a local hockey mom-turned-crusader for cancer research — all cancer survivors. Also participating in the ceremonies were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Inova CEO Dr. Stephen Jones. The ceremonies featured more than 100 cancer patients and their family members, who became the first to walk through the front door of the newly-dedicated facility.

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment," said Bulova, who presented a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors congratulating Inova. "We have amazing facilities, doctors and cutting-edge technologies that are right here, literally in our own backyard, and that is so incredibly valuable."

Riley echoed the importance of having a first-class cancer facility in the county, offering residents the highest quality care without requiring them to travel, often hundreds of miles for treatment. She also emphasized the importance of the research that will take place at the facility, creating a new horizon in the

diversification of Fairfax County's workforce.

"We're very excited about the research and development aspect of the Schar Institute and the ways in which it will help diversify our local economy," Riley said. "It will attract new doctors and scientists. In partnership with facilities like the University of Virginia Medical School, those researchers will be applying for new grants and developing the kinds of programs that will make Fairfax County known as a medical research and development center."

"We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment."

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

DURING THE DEDICATION, Jones announced that Dr. John Deeken, who had been serving as acting president of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, is named permanently to the president's role. Deeken said the institute would continue stress its "patient-first" philosophy, building on its ability to provide one-stop care through teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, researchers and specialized counselors.

"The vision and the spirit is that the patient is at the center of everything we do," said Deeken, who previously served as COO of the Inova Translational Medicine Institute. "Fundamentally, that's the difference in the model of care at Inova."

"This is the culmination of years of effort in planning and design and recruiting — to make real what we'd hoped to have for all the patients in Northern Virginia, which is expert care close to home. Nobody in Northern Virginia should think they need to go to Houston, New York or Baltimore to get world-class cancer care. We have it right here."

COURTESY PHOTO

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

teaching financial literacy. The one-hour event is free and open to the public. To sign up for the May 10 orientation, email RSVP volunteer specialist Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To register online or to learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Letter carriers will pick up donated food. Leave donations before your typical mail delivery time. All food stays in the local community. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce or

spaghetti sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili and pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken and turkey), beans (canned or dry). Questions should be directed to 202-662-2489.

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

❖ 9-10:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

❖ 1:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

Family Caregiver Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia

Community College, Annandale Campus. Capital Caring will host its first Caregiver Expo in partnership with AARP and Virginia Hospital Center. The expo is free and will feature information highlighting resources and support programs available to family caregivers, including home care services, financial and estate planning, elder law, and information sessions on such topics as Alzheimer's and Dementia, Preservation of Assets, and Caring for the Caregiver. Free health screenings will be offered as well as free massages. Contact Amy Shields at ashields@capitalcaring.org or call 703-531-6095 for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Long & Foster to Hold Real Estate Pre-Licensing Class with Military Scholarships available starting in May

The Burke/Fairfax Station/Clifton office of Long & Foster Real Estate located at 6045 Burke Centre Parkway in Burke, Virginia, will host a real estate pre-licensing class in its new state-of-the-art training center, starting May 14. The 60-hour course is designed for individuals interested in pursuing a career in real estate. Classes will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm.

"At Long & Foster, we're dedicated to having the best trained and best equipped agents in the business, and our new training center helps us to accomplish those goals" said Paul DiCicco, manager of the Burke/Fairfax/Clifton office.

Long & Foster also offers the P. Wesley Foster Military Service Scholarship—a full scholarship program for real estate pre-licensing classes to U.S. military veterans, active duty personnel and their spouses and children. Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and textbooks for classroom courses offered by the Long & Foster.

For more information or to register for the upcoming course, contact Paul DiCicco at (703)503-1899 or email pauld@lnf.com.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Spotlight on the Arts. Through May 12, The 2019 Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival will honor the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock with three weeks of theatre, dance, music and visual art, rekindling that "Age of Aquarius" vibe in Fairfax. Put some flowers in your hair, dust off your bell bottoms and join in for some or all of this local "Aquarian Exposition." Learn about associated events at FairfaxSpotlight.org.

Art Exhibit: [Land]scape. Through May 19, in the Art Lab Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Curated by GMU MFA Candidate, Emily Fussner. The exhibition itself becomes a landscape revealing a strata of emerging art practices. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more.

Group Exhibition: Degrees of Honor. Through May 19 in the Warrior Way Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Group exhibition surveying the works of artists addressing the concept of honor in different perspectives — separation, pain, loneliness, turmoil, stories and memories. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 2-4

Newsies. Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Hayfield Secondary School's Theatre Department is performing Disney's Newsies the Musical. This show is appropriate for all ages. \$10 online; \$12 at the door. Call 703-599-9143 or visit hayfelddrama.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

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.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Healthy Strides 5k/10k. 7 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Burke. Head out to Burke Lake Park for the 8th annual Healthy Strides 5k/10k. Enjoy a scenic run around the grounds of Burke Lake Park. The 10k runs along a wooded path, taking runners around the lake. The 5k follows a tree-lined road through the park, is wheelchair accessible and stroller-friendly. Both courses are USATF certified. \$35. Visit potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2019-healthy-strides-community-5k-10k or call 703-814-7795.

Both Sides Tour XXII. 8:15 a.m. departure from Franconia Museum at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Join Don Hakenson, Ben Trittipoe and Carl Sell for an in-depth look at legendary "Stonewall" Jackson's exploits that caused the Union command to change tactics even when defeated. This tour will cover a lot of ground and will arrive back in Franconia at 7 p.m. \$100, includes bus, lunch, and a fast-food value card. Bottled water will be provided on the bus. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@verizon.net.

Celebrate Pilates Day. 9 a.m.-noon at Studio BE Pilates, 4211 Fairfax Corner E. Ave., #200, Fairfax. In honor of World Pilates Day. The morning will begin with a free Mat class held in the plaza of Fairfax Corner, all are welcome to join. There will be an Open House at Studio BE Pilates where people may enter a raffle, have a treat, and enjoy demos and games. call 703-222-0122 studiobepilates.com

Ekoji Arts Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane Fairfax Station. Featuring: handmade jewelry, hand



PHOTO BY GINNY AX

The Jasien home is one of four homes on the 47th Annual Clifton Homes Tour, hosted by the Clifton Community Woman's Club on Friday, May 17.

Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction

The Clifton Community Woman's Club hosts the 47th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction on Friday, May 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Proceeds are distributed to local scholarships and charities. This Clifton tradition offers guided tours of four homes and two historic churches: Clifton Baptist Church (1910) and Clifton Primitive Baptist Church (1871). The silent auction (free admission) is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$33 online, and \$35 the day of the tour; \$10 to tour a single home. Tour tickets may be purchased in advance at local shops, online at www.cliftoncwc.org, or purchased the day of the tour at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton.

knit baby items, locally sourced mohair yarn, kumihimo keychains, Japanese dolls, journals, paintings, Asian amulets and decor, collages, pencil portraits, Japanese character art, hand dyed hemp textiles, scarves and wraps. Visit www.ekoji.org or call 703-239-0500.

Chamber Ensemble Recital. 3 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The AYPO Chamber Program is completing a year of music making with some of the most beautiful chamber music written. Call 703-642-8051 or visit www.aypo.org.

Fun Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Canterbury Woods Elementary, 4910 Willet Drive, Annandale. This year's Fun Fair features laser tag, carnival games, a LEGO room, food (shaved ice, Chik-fil-a, pizza, and fresh baked goods), face painting, special activities for children 4 years and younger and more. The community is welcome. Email ada_todd@yahoo.com for more.

"From Classical to Tango." 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Concerts from Kirkwood presents the final concert

of its 2018 - 2019 season as Trio Omnia comes to the Kirkwood stage with "From Classical to Tango," a program of the works of Haydn, Rachmaninoff, and Piazzola. Visit www.kirkwoodpres.com, or call the church office at 703-451-5320.

National Salamander Day Celebration. 4-4:45 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Mark this special day with a salamander search both on land and in the stream at the park. Learn about these critters and how they compare with other amphibian cousins. Designed for participants age 5-adult. \$6 per person. Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by an adult registered in this program. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Ave. Fixed price dinner, followed by movie of participant's choice at Cinemark Fairfax Corner 14. Cost of \$35 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Advance RSVP required for reserved seats at movies: NewBCarol@verizon.net. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced people (www.newbeginningsusa.org).

Musical Feast Gala Celebration. 5:30-9:30 p.m. The event begins in the deLaski Performing Arts Building with food, wine, and student performance showcases including opera, steel pan, classical guitar, percussion, brass, piano, woodwinds, and an interactive music technology demonstration. Followed by a final concert featuring the Mason Symphony Orchestra, the Green Machine, Mason All-Star Jazz, Wind Symphony, Mason Chorale and more at 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Proceeds from tickets and sponsorships will support much needed scholarship funds for music students. Tickets are \$95, \$75 for Mason faculty, staff, alumnus/a and parents. Sponsorships begin at \$500. Visit cvpa.gmu.edu/musical-feast.

City of Fairfax Band Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Ernst Cultural Center,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

South County Percussion Band on National Stage

School's drumline group lands in 15th place at a competition in Dayton, Ohio.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The South County High School drumline group gained national attention as they landed in 15th place at a competition in Dayton, Ohio recently. Among hundreds of other percussion groups from high schools around the country at the "WGI: Sport of the Arts Percussion World Championships," the indoor drumline team pulled it off with their "Don't Look Back," theme based on Greek mythology. "We were the strongest school from this state," said Charlie Gorham, a senior that played the tenor drums.

"It's very difficult to get to the level we were at," added Sam Belkowitz, a fellow senior that plays the marimba, a xylophone-like instrument.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The drumline percussion band from South County High School at the competition in Ohio.

There's 39 students on the drumline group, which is an offshoot of the main marching band at South County. All play percus-

sion instruments following a certain theme for the music they're entering in the competition. They spent four days in Dayton, with 10

parent chaperones, and their accommodations were sleeping in a gym at the local YMCA. It didn't seem to phase the students. "We drove in mini-vans and two trucks," said Gorham.

There was the preliminary round, the semi finals and finally the finals on the third day.

Charlie Gorham has been on the drumline team in previous years at South County. Throughout his school career, the drumline team has played a big part, although now he's got a few weeks left before graduation. "I miss it already," he said. Being in the band was more than just playing the music. Belkowitz felt they were like a family and motivated each other constantly. "We got to make great friends that we'll know for the rest of our lives," he said. There are drumline bands at Chantilly High School, Fairfax High School and Thomas Jefferson.

Linwood Gorham, Charlie's father, has seen the impact the band experience has made on his son. "He's obsessed with music," he said. "South County High School has made him what he is, that's a top-notch music department in that school," he said.

Charlie and Sam have a summer to relish their accomplishment and work music into their schedule as they get ready for college in the fall. Charlie Gorham will spend the summer working at a local air conditioning company before heading off to George Mason University, where they also have a drumline band. He's studying music. Belkowitz is working at the same summer camp in Pennsylvania where he worked last year, and is heading to Miami University of Ohio in the fall.

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NEWS

**Volunteers Pack
Ramadan Food
Boxes To Help
People In Need**

As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan approaches, Islamic Relief USA, a nonprofit humanitarian and advocacy organization based in Alexandria, helped prepare for the month of fasting by packing boxes with nonperishable foods.

Some 60 volunteers participated in the Saturday, April 27 event, which was split in two shifts. The volunteers helped fold boxes, pack them with food, tape them for shipping, and flatten unpacked boxes. In total, the volunteers assembled 1,500 food boxes.

The food boxes, whose items are intended to last for several days, are all non-perishable. They include cooking oil, a 10 pound bag of basmati rice, canned tuna,



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Some 60 volunteers assembled 1,500 food boxes.



The food boxes, whose items are intended to last for several days, are all non-perishable.

beans, sugar, flour, vegetable bouillon, pasta, Ragu sauce, cereal, peanut butter, and, of course, dates.

The boxes will be given to local residents in need, regardless of their race, gender, creed, or religion.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. At the City of Fairfax Band's concert, Aliferis will play "Tableaux de Provence" by Paule Maurice, on his alto saxophone. In the program, "American Vistas," the band continues with an aural feast of music that conjures up visions of America from the Shenandoah River of Virginia to the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and beyond. \$15 adult, \$10 senior, students free. Get tickets at the door or at www.fairfaxband.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 4-5

HO Gauge Model Train Show.

Noon-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Group will have running HO gauge model trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Kayak Tour at Lake Accotink.

8-10 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Paddle Lake Accotink's tranquil waters with a naturalist guide for an early morning view of wildlife. Glide past bald eagle nests as the park comes to life. A single-seat kayak and life preserver will be provided. No kayak experience is required. \$31 per person. Canceled for rain or unfavorable water levels. Call 703-569-3464 visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, through mid-November, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lorton VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Local producer market featuring seasonal fresh fruits, vegetables, plants, naturally raised meats, eggs, pickles, salads, artisanal breads and baked goods. SNAP accepted. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Pilates in Park. 10 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Celebrate National Pilates

Day with a mat marathon challenge. Bring a mat and see how many classes you can finish and complete in special challenges. Prizes include free reformer (machine) pilates classes at our studio. Free. Call 703.691.5999 or visit www.clubpilates.com/burke.

Goat Yoga. Noon. Liberty Lorton, the former prison turned new development, is hosting a series of events that includes barnyard yoga, outdoor movie nights, and the second annual Turkey Trot. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty alike. Visit thelibertylife.com for more.

Spring Ballet: Coppelia. 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. Coppelia is a charming, humorous ballet of infatuation, deception, and finally a love that prevails. Dance along with Swanilda and Franz as they find their way to love and "happily ever after." \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org

Legals

Legals

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL
PROPOSED NEW SPECIAL USE PERMIT
May 7, 2019**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. at the Community Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a request for a special use permit for Clifton Eatery, LLC, located at 7144 Main Street. The special use permit request includes a change of ownership. The application for this special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.gov and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing of the Town of Clifton Town Council and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit for Clifton Eatery, LLC.

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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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chair

Candidate Forum. 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Join the Fairfax NAACP for an engaging, moderated panel discussion with candidates for Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chair. Candidates are Alicia Plerhoples, Tim Chapman, Ryan McElveen and Jeff McKay. Free. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

TUESDAY/MAY 14

NARFE Fairfax 737 Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June, and opened to all active and retired Federal employees, spouses and guests. Register for luncheon (\$11) by Friday before meeting. Call 703-280-2356 or email rrharney2@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Military Caregiver Workshop. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hope For The Warriors will host a one-day military caregiver workshop in the Springfield area. Free. Self-care and mindfulness including: art therapy, applied theater experiential, therapeutic yoga by Pamela Stokes Eggleston of Yoga2Sleep and share time with other caregivers. Visit www.hopeforthewarriors.org/health-ness/military-veteran-caregiver-support-services.

Emergency Preparedness for Parents of Students with Disabilities. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. For the millions of Americans with disabilities, natural and human-made disasters present a substantial challenge. Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management is committed to the inclusion of all by spreading the message of preparedness to its residents with disabilities and access and functional needs. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

NEXUS 2019: Fussy Minds Forum. 1-3:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Public Schools Virginia Hills Center, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Today more than ever, stress wears people out. Stressed-out youngsters, tweens and teens may seek harmful ways to relieve stress. During this forum, participants discuss the effects of stress on the brain-ways of the young and how to build the resilience needed for successful learning into adulthood and beyond. Space is limited; register at www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-addressing-irritability-stress-fussiness-in-todays-youth-tickets-60314231490.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 22

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 11

NARFE Fairfax 737 Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June, and opened to all active and retired Federal employees, spouses and guests. Register for luncheon (\$11) by Friday before meeting at 703-280-2356.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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As Luck Has Had It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Aside from the fatigue I experienced a few columns ago, this immunotherapy infusion is, and has been, quite manageable.

My biggest take away so far is that I've had no real quality of life issues, as had been the case with my previous chemotherapy/alimta infusions. With that drug, I had post-infusion eating challenges and for nearly a week after the fact, felt less than mediocre.

Moreover, I wouldn't say I felt like I had cancer, but I certainly was reminded of it — if that makes any sense.

And even though I do have some minor side effects from my current immunotherapy infusion, I am reminded nevertheless, that I have cancer. Not because of how I feel, as was the case previously, but because of how I look — and because of what I feel.

I am referring to my "Adam's apple" tumor. Not only can/do I 'look' it all the time but quite often, depending on how I move my head: forward/downward, I can feel it too.

I have to tell you, feeling it as I do, and looking at it as often as I do: every day, is unsettling.

My whole approach to this living-with-cancer life has been to compartmentalize it a la Jerry Seinfeld and "the vault." Out of sight has helped keep some things out of mind. And when things are out of mind, it's much easier to make believe.

And making believe has been one of my methods of "operandi" since Feb. 20, 2009. That's the date (you bet I remember) when my internal medicine doctor called me at work with the results of my previous week's biopsy: "malignant," he said.

Up until that call, the previous six weeks' diagnostic pursuit had been interesting in a curious kind of way wondering what all the goings on were about and when all these inconveniences would end. And not for a minute during this entire process did I ever think I'd be diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I figured, to the extent I figured at all, that the process would result in much having been done about nothing.

Boy was I wrong!

I still remember — and laugh when I recall the phone conversation I had with my thoracic surgeon after he had received the results of my PET scan: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree," he said.

Presuming that wasn't good news, I replied: "I hear there are false positives all the time which is why these scans aren't used a lot." (A perfect example of a little knowledge in the wrong mouth.)

I can't recall if the doctor snickered before he said the following: "Well, then your scan was a world record false positive." I don't know if I grasped the obvious at that point but soon a surgical biopsy was ordered and the rest is Kenny-with-cancer history, a history with which many of you regular readers are all too familiar.

And that's a familiarity which I hope has not bred contempt. Because even though it's my life — and I'm stuck with it (as the old saying says), it need not be yours. I can well imagine and appreciate how living with and/or seeking out negativity is not likely to improve any one's lot in life. (I try to avoid it every day.)

To that end, I have always tried to tread lightly and write with a soft touch since I've been cancer-centric beginning June 10, 2009, when I published my first column on the subject: "Dying To Tell You, Sort Of." And in so doing, I've tried to see the light amid the darkness and be thankful for any in between.

I can't say it's been fun, but it's funny how things have turned out: alive and reasonably well, 10-plus years later.

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



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