

Chantilly
CONNECTION
Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 6

Chantilly High Holds Graduation

NEWS, PAGE 3

Chantilly High
School students during
graduation ceremonies at
the GMU Eagle Bank Arena
on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Route 28 Widening
Moves Forward

NEWS, PAGE 4

‘Each Song
Will Speak to You’

NEWS, PAGE 2

ATTENTION
POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL
REQUESTED
IN HOME
6-13-19

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION ♦ OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

JUNE 12-18, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

'Each Song Will Speak to You'

Centreville's Heidi Brown performs in upcoming musicale.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville's Heidi Brown has been singing, dancing and performing since age 5. And she comes by her talent naturally, since her mom, Annie Ermlick, is a well-known veteran of many local, little-theater productions.

Now, Brown is a married mother of two, as well as a social studies teacher at Centreville High. She's also continued to perform, has directed and choreographed a number of community-theater shows and is about to release her first music CD.

Topping it all off, on Sunday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m., she'll be singing in a Musicales at the Cascades Overlook Event Center, 21453 Epicerie Plaza in Sterling. Tickets are \$15 via <https://www.grandermusic.com/events/>.

"I'm so excited to start my summer off with the release of my CD, 'Waiting for a Moment,' at the Musicales," said Brown. "I think everyone, any age, will like this CD."



Heidi Brown

She said she's been through "significant life events that really link up with some of the songs. There are moments of happiness, of sadness, of 'What do I do next?' And there's also the closing of one chapter of your life and moving on to the next one, plus uncertainty. There are a lot of emotions, and I think people will be able to relate to them."

"Each of the songs will speak to you in a different way," continued Brown. "And I think that's really cool – as is having a variety of songs with varying themes and messages. Life's not perfect – it gets messy – but it's also awesome."

She sings under the Grander Music label, founded by former Centreville resident Don Halterman, who began the brand to make and promote music that's meaningful. And its two other principals, John Nixon and Kent Washburn, still live in Centreville.

In addition, Brown enjoys singing and performing in a mixed-Barbershop group called "Fantastic 4 Quartet," as well as with a chorus group named Bella Nova. She recently performed as part of a traditional, Bavarian, song-and-dance group called Alt-Washingtonia, as well as in "A Night of Grander Music" at the State Theatre in Falls Church.

"Her music reflects the diversity that is already part of who she is, both musically and in her life," said Nixon. "Her songs are inspirational, as well as reflective, sad and joyful."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MPO SABRINA RUCK

(From left) William Collier presents the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and Certificate to PFC Kory Pfeiffer.

PFC Kory Pfeiffer Given SAR Award

PFC Kory Pfeiffer, an officer with the Sully District Police Station, has been honored with an award from the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He received it during a recent meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee.

William Collier, from the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, presented him with the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal and certificate for those who have served with distinction and devotion in the field of law enforcement.

Pfeiffer's citation read as follows: "Private First Class Kory Pfeiffer, Fairfax County Police Department, has served with distinction for the

past three years. His professional demeanor, technical and tactical knowledge is an example for all to follow. As a member of the Sully District Neighborhood Patrol Unit, his performance sets the example for others to emulate.

"PFC Pfeiffer led the district in criminal arrests with 184, which is twice the number of arrests made by the officer with the second highest number of arrests. PFC Pfeiffer also leads the district in felony arrests. Private First Class Kory Pfeiffer's continuous performance of duty is a great credit to himself, the Fairfax County Police Department and the entire law enforcement profession."

ADVANCE HERE.

Take your career anywhere.

Graduate programs in
**government processes
and global security in DC**
for working professionals.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY ONLINE: ADVANCED.JHU.EDU/GOVSTUDIES



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR
Advanced Governmental Studies

1717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW, SUITE 101 | WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | 1.800.847.3330 | 202.452.1940

NEWS



Distinguished guests enter the GMU Eagle Bank Arena for Chantilly High School's graduation on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.



Chantilly High School students enter the GMU Eagle Bank Arena for Chantilly High School's graduation on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Chantilly High's Seniors Graduate

661 students receive diplomas; \$7 million in scholarships awarded

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

With dignity, pomp and circumstance, to the tune of music by the Symphonic Winds and Orchestra and Chamber Chorale, Chantilly High School held its 2019 commencement exercises for 661 students on Tuesday, June 4, at the GMU Eagle Bank Arena in Fairfax.

According to Dr. Scott Poole, Chantilly High Principal, who welcomed guests: "The most rewarding part of my job is when I experience students being successful, especially after they overcome significant challenges and setbacks along the way."

He said, "In short, there are 661 champions of all kinds sitting in front of me, and the staff as well as your parents are proud of the champions that you have become."

THE CLASS OF 2019 had some impressive statistics: 176 seniors were honor graduates; 70 percent of the graduates will be attending colleges — 341 at state institutions; and 17 percent of those students are the first to attend college in their families. The class received \$7 million in scholarships and 1,279 students received indus-

try certifications.

A highlight of the evening was theater teacher Shannon Khatcheressian, who gave the keynote address, and opened by joking: "Ellen Degeneres, if this goes viral and somehow gets in front of your steely blue eyes, I am turning 40 this July and the only thing I want to do is dance with you on your show for 30 seconds."

She told the students: "We need to remember that we have all been given gifts.... The gift of laughter will get you far my friends; you have to have the ability to step back and laugh at yourself as you have found out — you will screw up, you will fail and you will be embarrassed, and you can let those small moments define you or you can laugh at them as part of your journey...."

"Instead of looking at the problems life gives you, what if you looked at them as an opportunity?" she added. "Because, look, we're going to be flooded with problems big and small, and everyone in this room has discovered, we can look at a problem and say, 'Why me?,' or we can look at it as an opportunity and say, 'What can I do with this? What can I learn from this?'"

The Honor Graduate Speaker was Benjamin "Benny" Blue, who was diagnosed

with Asperger's Syndrome at a young age. "You are amazing, you are fantastic, you are powerful and you're going to do great things. It would be a crime, an act of vandalism on existence itself to deprive the world of your attempts, and if you stumble and fall the impact will shake the earth, and that is just more evidence of the power inside you to get back up again," he added.

THE WINNER of the 2019 Charger Award was Kartik Chugh, a student who displayed character, honesty, accountability, respect, growth, excellence, responsibility and service. According to Robyn Lady, Class Administrator and Director of Student Services: "This year's Charger Award winner demonstrates strong integrity and carries himself with poise and compassion. He takes time to genuinely listen, wants to help and is appreciative of any time that one can give him. This student loves to learn, always strives to be kind and do the right thing and learn from his mistakes. His simple acts of kindness do not go unnoticed."

The Faculty Award was presented to Dylan Sparks by Dr. Poole, and the presentation of the Class Gift by Jade Heilemann was picnic tables for the football field.



The Chantilly Academy Air Force JROTC Color Guard during Chantilly High School's graduation at the GMU Eagle Bank Arena on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



The Jumbotron during Chantilly High School's graduation at the GMU Eagle Bank Arena on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.



Chantilly High School students line up to receive their diplomas.

'We Can Only Go to Six Lanes at This Time'

Route 28 widening project continues moving forward.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When it's rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville, no one is going anywhere quickly. But a multimillion-dollar widening project will eventually improve things considerably. It won't become a reality until 2023, but plans are well underway.

Route 28 will be widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, from the bridge over Bull Run to the interchange at Route 29 at the Prince William/Fairfax County line. Besides adding more through lanes to Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will also improve intersection operations, upgrade existing traffic signals and improve bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28.

LOCAL RESIDENTS learned more about the proposed plans during a recent, public-information meeting at Centre Ridge Elementary. More than 100 people attended, including Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully), Fairfax County Planning Commissioner Jim Hart, West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee Chairman John Litzenberger, Del. Danica Roem (D-13), and county transportation staff.

"This Fairfax County project is being done in cooperation with VDOT and the NVTa [Northern Virginia Transportation Authority]," said Todd Minnix, chief of the Transportation Design Division of Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). "And we're doing design-build to speed up the process."

Design-Build provides for more-rapid progress by combining and overlapping the design, right-of-way, utility and construction phases. As a result, many of the tasks are done concurrently, rather than one after another.

"We've got 30-percent [design] plans, subject to change," said Minnix. "We've submitted them to VDOT, and they'll be revised, based on your comments and our and VDOT's reviews. VDOT needs to approve them before construction."

The roadway is being built to handle estimated traffic levels in 2040, but there are several challenges. There are streams and wetlands in the project area, and the elevation difference between northbound and southbound Route 28 will require median retaining walls. In addition, the southbound road doesn't meet current, sight-distance criteria. And, said Minnix, "There are a lot of utilities, especially on the southbound side."

Lack of funding has also forced the project to change significantly from what was pro-



The intersection of Ordway, Compton and Old Centreville roads is a particularly important part of the Route 28 widening project.

FCDOT's Jim Beall, the project manager, satisfactorily answered a resident's question.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
CENTRE VIEW



posed last summer. "We initially recommended a 6-7-8-lane hybrid," said Minnix. "But we don't have enough money to do that, so we can only go to six lanes at this time."

However, he added, "We're designing for eight lanes in the future, with as little disruption to people and the environment as possible. And we based our noise analysis and environmental impacts on eight lanes in 2040."

UNDER THE PLAN, improvements would be made at all signalized intersections by adding turn lanes and/or one or more additional lanes on side streets. Doing so would eliminate split-phase, signal operations and improve overall intersection operations. Being considered are:

- ❖ Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at New Braddock (which may not be needed/required);
- ❖ Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at Machen Road;
- ❖ Triple left turns from westbound New Braddock to southbound Route 28;
- ❖ Adding one lane on both westbound and eastbound Compton Road, eastbound Old Mill Road and westbound Old

Centreville Road (at the north end of the project).

"We're also removing two, median cross-overs," said Minnix. "One is at Darkwood Drive and the other is south of Compton Road."

There'll be some right-of-way impacts, as well. Minnix said 36 parcels will be affected by the road, itself, and another six will be potentially impacted by the stormwater management.

Initially, four design options were proposed for the intersection of Ordway, Compton and Old Centreville roads. But again, money may affect the final decision. "Option One seems like all we can afford," said Minnix. "But we'd like to propose Option Four."

Option One would keep Ordway's alignment the same, but just add the new lanes. Option Four would realign Old Centreville Road to a "T" intersection with Ordway, with a traffic signal.

Since this project contains federal money, a proposal for noise mitigation is required for neighborhoods where the projected noise levels will exceed established criteria. But the residents must say, in writing, that they want noise walls.



Todd Minnix with FCDOT discusses the road-widening project.

"Right now, 26 buildings meet the excessive-noise criteria for sound walls, and this number would increase to 68 by 2040," said Minnix. "The face of the barrier can't be more than 1,600 square feet per home. At least 51 percent of the homes in a community have to vote for a noise barrier, and both the home renters and owners get to vote."

The whole road project is estimated to cost \$76,625,000 and, as of now, it's completely funded from the following sources:

- ❖ NVTa Regional Funds - \$26 million;
- ❖ State Revenue Sharing Funds - \$10 million;
- ❖ State SmartScale Funds - \$23,422,583;
- ❖ Federal Demonstration Funds - \$9,407,418; and
- ❖ Local Funds - \$7,794,999.

"We anticipate acquiring the land in fall or winter of next year," said Minnix. "We want the road constructed and open to traffic by spring 2023. But we'd really like it open by December 2022. We hope to have a contract signed with the design-builder by January-February of next year. And at 60-percent [plans], the design-builder will hold a public hearing before construction starts, to explain all the details to [the community]."

He also noted that work could begin on the northbound lanes first because most of the land-acquisition is on the south side. "The land-acquisition process will begin after the 60-percent plans are done," added Minnix. "And the land acquisition will be done for a road with all eight lanes, so it won't have to be done again later. The county will cut the check [for it], not the design-builder."

When the project does start, he said, "More than likely, there'll be nightwork – especially between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. But there'll be no lane closures during peak-traffic hours."

On May 24, five firms submitted statements of qualifications to be the design-builder. FCDOT is now evaluating these proposals and expects to narrow down the list to three finalists by July 14.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For crafters interested in joining the event, booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email dmueller@fairfax-station.org for an application and further information. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/JUNE 15

Live Music: Andy & Judy. 2-3 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Enjoy live folk music with Boston-based musical duo, Andy & Judy. They will perform traditional and folk music with influences of country, gospel and blues. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4534779 or www.andyjudyding.com.

Go Wild for Photography. 1-2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Join a nature photographer and learn the basics of capturing images in the wild with the "Wild for Photography" class. Bring a smartphone, Polaroid camera, SLR to shoot photos. Experiment with landscapes, critter close-ups, and aquatic abstracts. For participants age 8-adult. \$9 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 15-16

Father's Day Park Programs. This Father's Day weekend spend time with fathers and grandfathers in a program just for them at a county park.

❖ **Golf Tournament.** Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Course. Kick off the weekend with the "Father's Day Golf Tournament." Two-player teams compete in an 18-hole scramble format in three divisions: Father/Jr. 7-12; Father/Jr. 13-17; Father/Adult partner with closest-to-the-pin contests and prizes for the top three places in all three divisions. \$75 per team includes lunch. Call 703-323-1641 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake.

❖ **Wood Carving.** Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill. Celebrate by treating Dad to a free wood carving lesson with the Northern Virginia Carvers. There is a nominal charge for wood blanks. While visiting the mill, take a tour. Dads and granddads tour for free on Father's Day when accompanied by a paying child. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

❖ **"Animal Dads."** Sunday, 1-1:45 at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale. Children age 2-6 can pretend to be a penguin, wolf and beaver dad as they learn about these doting fathers. Participants will meet live animals and make a craft for their favorite father/grandfather. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 1 to 1:45 p.m. \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

❖ **Family Fishing.** Sunday, 2-3:30 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m. at Riverbend Park, Great Falls. If Dad likes to fish, register for the "Father's Day Family



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY & JUDY

Live Music: Andy & Judy

Enjoy live folk music with Boston-based musical duo, Andy & Judy. They will perform traditional and folk music with influences of country, gospel and blues. Saturday, June 15, 2-3 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4534779 or www.andyjudyding.com.

Fishing" program at Riverbend Park. Supplies and equipment will be provided, or bring a rod and reel. Pick up some fishing tips. All fish caught will be released. Designed for participants age 4-adult. \$12 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

❖ **Father's Day Campfire.** Sunday, 6-7 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Wrap up the day with the "Father's Day Campfire." Learn about some of nature's best fathers, take a hike near a stream and eat s'mores. Of course, moms are invited, too. \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SUNDAY/JUNE 16

Sully Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Take Dad for a stroll down memory lane this Father's Day with a visit to the Antique Car Show at Sully Historic Site. Relive a time when chrome was king and V-8 engines ruled the land. Car show tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for children, and will be sold at the gates. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 16-17

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Celebrate the Year's Longest Day. 8-9:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Cozy up to a campfire at a "Summer Solstice Campfire." Learn to separate fact and fiction regarding midsummer and its celestial events. Head out on a hike while waiting wait for the sun to set and enjoy roasting marshmallows around a campfire. The minimum age to attend this program is 6 years. \$8. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

Sully District Summer Open House and Food Drive. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Sully District Government Center - Community Rooms, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. This two-part event will feature a food drive with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries as well as presentations

from various environmental agencies like the Fairfax County Health Department and the Park Authority. Attendees will be able to learn about mosquito and tick prevention, summer REC Center information, Park Authority volunteer opportunities and more. Call 703-814-7100 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 23

Hands On Activities. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Some of the activities will include operating model trains, decoding and writing telegraph messages as well as observing Tom Boltz, one of the Station's volunteers, demonstrate how an old train order hoop was used by the railroads so that the train engineer and a train station employee could communicate when a train was entering a station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Dog Days of Summer Craft Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come celebrate the Dog Days of Summer with local rescue groups and learn about Adopt Don't Shop for finding a new pet. Make pull toys out of old jeans and fleece to be donated to pups waiting for their forever home. Donate old jeans or fleece on any Sunday or bring it along on the 30th. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/JULY 5

African-American Genealogy. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. An African-American Genealogy study group meets the first Monday of the month (except September and November). Participation in the study group is free but registration is requested. To register, or for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/events or call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Photography Basics 1. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. "Using Fully Automated Mode" part 1 of a two-part series. This class will teach participants how to take pictures with a camera or mobile device on full automatic mode. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5250981 for more.

tranzon[®] auction

Office Condo Near Fairfax
June 19th at 2pm
10650 Main Street #203
Fairfax, VA

- Prime Fairfax City Location
- 2 units combined
- 1374sf, 2 entrances
- Can be divided
- FX7318



Tranzon Fox

VAAF423

TRANZON.COM

Handyman Bungalow
June 19th at 1pm
5224 Summit Drive
Fairfax, VA

- Estate sale
- Luxury home neighborhood
- 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
- 2 car garage
- FX7317

888-621-2110

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS

June

6/5/19.....Wellbeing
6/12/19.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts
6/12/19.....HomeLifeStyle
6/19/19.....A+ Graduations & Summer Education
6/26/19.....Senior Living:
Connection Families: Summer Life

July

7/3/19.....Wellbeing
7/10/19.....HomeLifeStyle
7/17/19.....A+ Camps & Schools

Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.



Have The Connection emailed
directly to you every week!

www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households
• Alexandria Gazette Packet • Fairfax Connection • Oak Hill/Hemdon Connection
• Arlington Connection • Fairfax Station/Clibon/Lorton Connection • Potomac Almanac
• Burke Connection • Great Falls Connection • Reston Connection
• Centre View • McLean Connection • Springfield Connection
• Chantilly Connection • Mount Vernon Gazette • Vienna/Dakota Connection

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Announcements

Donate A Boat or Car Today!
BoatAngel
"2-Night Free Vacation!"
800-700-BOAT
(2628)
www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Announcements

Lifetime METAL ROOFING
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS, INC.
40 YEAR WARRANTY ON THE FINISH - ENERGY EFFICIENT
SUPERIOR DURABILITY - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
FACTORY DIRECT - WE FINANCE - CALL NOW!
WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM 1-800-893-1242

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

NEWS

Celebrating Fairfax

Fairfax County Government Center hosted the 38th annual Celebrate Fairfax festival from June 7-9. The event was filled with a wide range of activities for the whole family including carnival rides and games, local vendors, and performances from rock bands Better Than Ezra and Smash Mouth.



Cousins Joy Mtila, 4, and Kas Kachale Banda, 5, from Fairfax, have fun riding the Frog Hopper up and down.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



Emma, 9, of Chantilly flies high on the Spiderman jump ride.



Sadir Zrok and his daughter Soraya, 4, of Centreville, pose for a photo after visiting the face painting booth.

ROUNDUPS

Father's Day Antique Car Show

The 46th annual Father's Day Antique Car Show will be held Sunday, June 16, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly. Hundreds of antique cars will be on display and some cars will be for sale. The fun also includes live music, children's activities, a flea market, food court and a tour of the historic house.

Admission is \$10, adults; \$8, senior citizens; and \$6, children. Co-sponsors are the George Washington Chapter Inc., Model A Ford Club, and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Sully District Open House

The Sully District Summer Open House is set for Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900

Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Meet Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and her staff and bring nonperishable food items for the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry. Needed, as well, are hygiene items, baby wipes and diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6. Also during the event, people may learn about Fairfax County Park Authority volunteer opportunities, mosquito and tick disease prevention and summer classes offered at the REC centers.

Chantilly Farmers Market

The Chantilly Farmers Market is held each Thursday, from 3:30-7 p.m., in the parking lot of St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road in Chantilly. It will run until Nov. 11 and offers fruits, vegetables, baked goods, French pastries, meats, wines, eggs, nut spreads and traditional Mexican food. The next two markets are set for June 13 and June 20.

BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 14

Application Deadline: Fire Academy. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is now accepting applications for its Girls Fire and Rescue Academy summer camp, which will take place July 11-13, 2019. The Academy is open to female students who will be in grades 7-12 in the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. Participants must be a Fairfax County resident. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems.

SATURDAY/JUNE 15

Volunteer Habitat Heroes. 10 a.m.-noon at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Volunteers will remove non-native invasive plants to protect native species and support wildlife habitat and will use tools to pull or cut invasive plants in the natural areas. Volunteers may take part in a small planting of native trees and shrubs to help the forest regenerate. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old, and those 15 years and younger must be with an adult. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kiersten Conley at 703-631-0013.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 24-28

Young Actors Workshop. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Westfield High School. This camp is for rising 1st-7th grade students. For more than a decade, this dramatic arts camp has offered students the chance to sing, dance and participate in theatre games and performances. Through words, music and movement, students engage in activities that culminate in a presentation of songs and dances from popular Broadway shows.

Visit www.westfieldtheatre.com to register.

MONDAY/JULY 1

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this brand new PODS Meetup for an evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Women living with any type of diabetes are warmly welcome. Free. Email sara@diabetessisters.org or visit diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this brand new PODS Meetup for an evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Women living with any type of diabetes are warmly welcome. Free. Email sara@diabetessisters.org or visit diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. 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 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can "E-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller		TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Spring Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com		ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com		TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Spring Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience – Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		IMPROVEMENTS Power Washing Go from green to clean, do you have mold on your siding rotten wood that's a hoar violation? We do houses, decks, fences, side walks, etc. Deck and fence repair, deck staining and sealing. Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates email: jnave@comcast.net 703-987-5096	
A&S Landscaping • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia		A&S Landscaping • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia		ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL ► Email Marketing ► Social Media ► Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING	
RVAC Plumbing Remodeling Electrical Other RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com		RVAC Plumbing Remodeling Electrical Other RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com		CONNECTION Reaching Southern Washington's Leading Households 703-778-9431 www.fairfaxconnection.com	
LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500 J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed		LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500 J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed		Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE	

What A Week!



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The least of it was my pre-immunotherapy lab work on Wednesday and then my actual immunotherapy infusion on Friday. The most of it was my navigating websites and trying to properly complete applications/enrollment forms for the Virginia Unemployment Commission and the Maryland Health Connection.

For a man (me) who fancies himself your go-to-guy for sports and chocolate, getting immersed in policies and procedures for government agencies providing unemployment benefits and health care – with our (my wife, Dina and I) respective lives somewhat dependent on the time-sensitive completion of said documents, was akin to sending yours truly out to sing the National Anthem at the next Nationals' game. It would be a disaster of titanic proportions (fortunately without the loss of life).

As it has been my entire life, I can't sing any more than I can now compute.

As I sit and write this week's column, having barely survived the excruciating ordeal of this past week – with only an in-office visit left to go on Monday – I now have next week to look forward to. And what garden path am I leading you down?

Another week of time-sensitive/computer-centric tasks, of course. Once again I will be sitting at my computer attempting to navigate through another government web site and this time a private sector website, as I try to sign up for Medicare effective Sept. 1, as well as the associated but independent supplemental medical insurance necessary to fill in the coverage gaps that I, as a former insurance broker, know exist.

Granted, with these two tasks I do have some time. I just hope I have the wherewithal.

This past week took a toll emotionally. And I'm not sure if I really want to climb that emotional mountain yet again.

This week's tasks are not any easier. Shooting fish in a barrel they're not. They're more like having to make the barrel and then catch the fish. Not easier said than impossibly done. For a man who knows his limitations, the week ahead will likely test those limitations.

But if not me, then who? Unfortunately, it has to be me. The other party with whom I share a long-standing arrangement has a skill set unsuited to and incompatible with, computers, and the kind of searching/deciphering/hunting and pecking on web sites required for completion of this week's tasks.

Moreover, if I enlist her support or insist on her participation, my present and future will not be enhanced by the experience. She may be a resource in many other respects, but in this respect, she's not.

And I can respect that. Give me a little credit, I've learned something in our 40 years together.

That being said – and understood, I think I'll take the weekend off from such endeavors and prepare myself for next week as I consider the challenges which lie ahead.

I'd like to think I've gained some confidence in the progress I made this past week. I've nearly completed both tasks, tasks which initially seemed almost insurmountable. However, if it were not for the amazingly patient, courteous and knowledgeable assistance I received from the call centers associated with these sites, I'd still be stumbling and stammering (literally) into oblivion.

But as of this past Friday, I've nearly reached the promised land. ("I can see Russia from my house.")

I can only imagine the satisfaction I'll feel next Friday when I anticipate I will have completed two more of these tedious tasks and secured yet another part of our financial and emotional future.

Four huge hurdles overcome, but still with a few more yet to go: probably applying for a reverse mortgage and possibly researching a kitchen renovation.

Wait a second. Don't I have lung cancer? Jeez, I almost forgot.

With all this other stuff going on, the cancer compartment stayed closed. Now it's open again. Damn, now I really have problems.

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

OPINION

Constitutional Amendment to End Gerrymandering — Not Quite

By JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Virginia is on the verge of reforming its legislative redistricting process (for VA Senate, House of Delegates and US House of Representatives) following the national census every ten years. The antiquated process encourages rampant gerrymandering, i.e., deliberate manipulation of district lines to the advantage of the party in power and incumbents. Incumbents are protected; communities are carved up; elections are less competitive; partisan gridlock is the norm and compromise impossible. Legislators select their voters instead of vice versa. Thanks to the work of the non-profit One Virginia 2021 and other reform advocates, the Virginia General Assembly (Senate and House of Delegates) passed a bipartisan constitutional amendment in 2019 to reform the process for redistricting. If enacted, it could reduce abuses with a more transparent and balanced process. To be enacted, it must be passed again, by the newly elected legislature in 2020, and then be approved by Virginia voters in a statewide referendum in Nov. 2021. The amendment came out of a legislative conference. It was a compromise with provisions from several proposals. The amendment creates a redistricting commission composed of 8 legislators and 8 citizens (the first citizen in-

volvement ever). Citizens will be bipartisan, with their final selection made by a panel of 5 retired circuit court judges from a large pool put forth by the legislature. To pass any new district maps, a supermajority of 6 legislators and 6 citizens is required. The Supreme Court of VA. will decide if they cannot agree. All commission meetings and records are open to the public. The legislature will vote to approve or not any new maps, but it cannot amend them.

One Virginia 2021 says categorically that although the amendment does not include all they proposed, "This will end partisan gerrymandering in Virginia." Del. Ken Plum sees it as a "great improvement," but acknowledges that it is "not perfect." Nevertheless, he says it "need[s] to get on the ballot for voter approval in time for the 2020...redistricting."

Others, like Reston's Bill Penniman, a public policy specialist, and myself believe there are serious shortcomings. For example, we think there is a distinct possibility that the legislature will largely still control the process. The legislators on the commission will have an interest in protecting their seats and, while dividing them up may reduce potential for abuses, the temptation for trading among them is a real possibility. Some partisan gerrymandering

abuses may be tamped down, but stopping incumbent protection will be tougher to achieve.

The citizen commissioners will be at a disadvantage. Lacking technical support and time for meaningful deliberation may weaken their potential for fair drawing of districts. The citizen members will be on a tight time schedule to hold public hearings around the state and draw maps for 140 General Assembly districts and 11 congressional districts. This could result in citizen commissioners ending up voting on districts as proposed to them by the legislative contingent.

Fixing glitches in the operation of the commission will be limited to things that can be done without having to amend the constitutional amendment. For example, the legislature, if there is the will, can level the playing field for citizen commissioners by providing for technical support and providing tools for greater scrutiny and reporting to the public of what goes on in the commission.

Perhaps we critics overestimate the flaws. I hope so, because gerrymandering is a major tear in the fabric of our democratic form of government. In any case, we agree that the proposed amendment may lead to significant improvement in drawing fairer federal and state legislative districts, certainly enough to justify proceeding. I suggest you let your legislators know you want them to vote for the amendment in the 2020 session. Reform is difficult work, made more so when it depends on some who perceive it as not in their interest to succeed.

Special Session on Gun Violence

By KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

Virginians are lovers of history, including this Virginian as regular readers of this column know. This year Virginia is celebrating 400 years since the first representative legislative body met at Jamestown. Virginia is the Mother of Presidents.

One bit of history that continues to loom large in Virginia's psyche these days with as little mention as possible from the state apologists is the prevalence of gun violence in the Commonwealth. Twelve years ago the campus of Virginia Tech was the scene of the largest mass murder of its time. While other mass murders have occurred since then, VA Tech through no direct fault of its own continues to hold the record for the most people killed on a college campus.

Virginia last week made history again. Virginia Beach was the scene of the biggest mass murder so far this year. A dubious distinction that we would least like to have. Virginia lost 1,028 people to gun violence in 2017, and as the Governor described it, that is almost three people a day; that is more deaths than those due to vehicle accidents.

For Governor Ralph Northam and for me and countless other Virginians, we long ago have had enough. As Governor Northam said in a press conference which I took part in last week: "No one should go to work, to school, or to church wondering if they will come home. But that is what our

society has come to, because we fail to act on gun violence. I will be asking for votes and laws, not thoughts and prayers."

The laws he is seeking to get passed have been introduced in the General Assembly during its regular sessions without success. In a special session that will begin in the coming weeks, only bills intended to end gun violence will be considered. And the Governor requested that "members of the General Assembly engage in an open and transparent debate and that the bills brought before the legislature are put to a vote by the entire General Assembly."

Bills related to gun violence that have been introduced in the regular session including my bill to require universal background checks have been routinely referred by the Speaker of the House to the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee where they are sent to a sub-

"Four members who are buddies with the NRA get to make the decision of 140 elected members of the General Assembly."

committee of six members. The members of the subcommittee are appointed by the Speaker of the House, four of whom have perfect voting records of opposing any gun safety legislation. My background check bill and the approximate 15 other bills related to preventing gun violence were defeated on a predictable vote of 2 to 4 with limited discussion or debate. Yes, that's right. Four members who are buddies with the NRA get to make the decision of 140 elected members of the General Assembly.

It is time for Virginia to make history again by leading the nation in doing the right thing to end gun violence. Voters, please pay close attention to how your elected representatives vote.

Chantilly CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@ChantillyConnec

Newspaper of
Chantilly
Fair Oaks / Fair Lakes
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

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

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

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM