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PHOTO BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION



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Janet Gelb, third place winner, Kathleen Furey, first place winner, and Patricia Deege, second place winner at the Vienna Arts Society reception for their judged photography show, "The Open Door," as well as a viewing of their ongoing exhibit, "The Healing Wall."

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Learning from Real-world Experiences

Katie Le, Principal, Cunningham Park Elementary School: Cunningham Park Elementary School is a dynamically diverse educational community that values meaningful learning that engages students in an ever-changing global society. Through Concept-Based Instruction and Project-Based Learning (PBL), teachers regularly connect curriculum to students' real-world experiences.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Katie Le

For example, during the 2018-2019 school year, all students participated in a school-wide PBL to enhance play spaces on school grounds for recess. Students turned their creative ideas into proposals that they presented to the CPES PTA to request funding. As a result, we now have three new Little Lending Libraries, a GaGa Ball Pit, lots of new playground equipment, and projects to complete in the upcoming year such as painting student-created designs that are mathematically accurate on the blacktop and turning our sidewalk into a gameboard.

Solving real-world problems cultivates creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking in all students,

and instills a motivation for learning.

In 2019-2020, we continue these initiatives with a focus on higher order thinking skills through our theme Creative Strategy in Plain Sight. Students will gain an understanding that when we think strategically, our work becomes easier and success increases. When we are creative in our thinking, we can develop and infuse strategies that match our personal learning preferences, and children are

prepared to be innovators in their communities as adults.

Keep your eye out for fun events like Halloweeno in October, Literacy Night in the fall, STEAM Night in the winter, and Seuss Night and International Game Night in the spring! We love having volunteers for our weekly mentoring program, and also for Take-Home Reading with kindergarten and first graders.

To volunteer or for more information about Cunningham Park, call 703-255-5600, visit our website (<https://cunninghamparkes.fcps.edu/>), or follow us on Twitter (@CunninghamPark) and Facebook (@CunninghamParkES).

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from Aug. 2 – 8, 2019.

INCIDENTS

Embezzlement — Patron Insurance Services 301 Maple Avenue, West June 5, 7:14 a.m. An employee reported that another employee had embezzled money from the business in the last few months. This case is being investigated.

Attempted Fraud — TD Bank 308 Maple Avenue, West July 21 between 1 and 2:28 p.m. Officers responded to assist with a possible fraud in progress. Officers were able to identify and interview the suspects. This case is being investigated.

Fraud — Moorefield Creek Road, SW Aug. 8, 11 a.m. A resident reported that he received a phone call from a person claiming to represent the Social Security Administration. The person claimed he had outstanding criminal charges and asked the resident to pay a large amount of money. The resident was skeptical about the legitimacy of the call. He was told to Google the phone number to the Social Security Administration and to call them back. The resident Googled "Social Security Administration" and the phone number listed was 1-800-772-1213. The resident called the number found on the Google website and was routed back to the same person again. The resident ended up paying a large amount of money he allegedly owed on gift cards. Later on the same day, he was contacted a

second time by the same caller requesting additional funds. At this time, the resident suspected it could be a scam and contacted the Vienna Police Department.

Fraud — 200 Maple Avenue, East Aug. 8, 1:25 p.m. An officer was flagged on the roadway by another driver. The citizen reported that she was on the phone with an IRS employee and he was asking for a large amount of money. It was later determined that the person was impersonating an IRS employee scammed the citizen out of a large amount of money. Officers were able to contact the credit card company that paid the transaction. The credit card company was able to freeze the recent transactions, and the additional accounts before any money was taken.

Grand Larceny — Giant 359 Maple Avenue, East Aug. 8, 7:23 p.m. A resident reported that while she was shopping for produce at Giant Food, a female approached her and started a conversation. She said during the conversation, she looked back at her shopping cart, where she had left her purse, and observed a man walking away quickly from her shopping cart. Once the resident went back to her shopping cart, she realized her wallet was missing. During the investigation, it was determined that many large purchases we made at local stores immediately after the wallet was taken. This case is being investigated.

SEE POLICE, PAGE 7

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Maple Avenue sees its share of congestion.



Getting Around in Vienna: Under the Microscope

Officials are seeking public input and evaluating before making a move.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

A drive through Vienna almost always includes a block or two on Maple Avenue where the hodgepodge of businesses, traffic signals, driveways and pedestrians slow things down. The Town of Vienna officials are looking for solutions to reduce this congestion, reaching out to the users of this main road to come up with ideas that create a safer traveling environment in Vienna.

The Town of Vienna has commissioned Kimley-Horn engineering to conduct the "Multimodal Transportation and Land Use Study," of the Maple Avenue corridor. Planners are discussing active transportation needs and how development might impact mobility.

THE STUDY AREA encompasses Maple Avenue from James Madison Drive to Follin Lane, and includes Church Street from Lawyers Road to East Street as well as Courthouse Road and Locust Street. It is divided into three phases that include existing transportation conditions, the impact of future development and finally the identification of potential transportation strategies. In September, transportation officials will present the findings and a set of recommendations to put into play and enhance the travel experience along this busy thoroughfare. "Walkability is very important," said Cindy Petkac, the Vienna Planning and Zoning Director.

The initial presentation in April highlighted problems, like traffic volumes, bus stop complexities, crash rates, narrow sidewalks and bike traffic. Some of the issues: 16 out of 31 bus stops lack passenger ameni-

ties; many of the surface parking lots are unconnected forcing cars to go out on Maple to get between lots; and reducing the interactions between bikes and cars.

The parking lots are privately owned said Lynne Coan, Vienna communications and marketing manager. "That was identified as a challenge by Kimley Horn," she said.

When the group met again in June, they came up with other points of attention including sidewalks that need work, transit frequency, turning delays, and high traffic volumes. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation average daily traffic counts, there are 30,000 to 31,000 vehicles per day on Maple Avenue and 4,600 to 6,000 on Church Street.

As far as bicycle concerns, the streets were allocated according to stress level, and Follin Lane and the W&OD Trail were the

only places that were listed as green, "most comfortable." All of Maple Avenue was colored red, for least comfortable. Vienna does have a Bicycle Advisory Committee that follows any developments impacting bike travel in the town.

IN THE END, planners hope to develop near- and mid-term recommendations along Maple Avenue for all modes of transportation in coordination with existing and future land uses. There have been three mixed-use projects recently approved that will add more commercial entities to the area, and funding for the recommendations from this study is a factor too.

Over the summer, the safety consultants are working on a list of recommendations that will be examined at a community meeting scheduled for Sept. 4. Then the recommendations will go through the official process. "Council will ultimately decide which to adopt," Coan said.

Arts on Display in Vienna

Vienna Arts Society presents 'The Open Door' and 'The Healing Wall' exhibits.

The Vienna Arts Society held a reception for their judged photography show, "The Open Door," as well as a viewing of their ongoing exhibit, "The Healing Wall." Chairman and photography show judge Sandi Croan has been a Northern Virginia photographer since 2003.

"It was a really fun theme to judge," said Croan. "There are beautiful examples of photography and art so I enjoyed doing this."

Margaret Raymond, member of VAS, organized the photography show. "I was in charge of the show last year and I wanted to give people a challenge, instead of just bringing in nice pictures," said Raymond. "I was thinking a year ago, immigration was just starting to show in the news and it wasn't quite the hot spot political storm that it is now so I thought of 'open doors.' I defined it as



Kathleen Furey, first place winner, with her winning photograph called "In Search of Oz."

a gate, pathway, opening, an opportunity or a risk. Most photographers took it literally." The pictures were mostly taken by

members of VAS and photographers from other organizations but submissions from the public were accepted as well.

"The Healing Wall" is an ongoing exhibit featuring original artwork by members of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. It contains six years of puzzle pieces created by troops on the mend, family, and staff. Members of the VAS bring puzzle pieces and art supplies to the hospital demonstrating techniques to create original art. Information on the exhibit states that "Most of the patients have little experience with creating art, and yet as they begin putting paint onto the pieces they discover their own 'inner artist.' Each piece makes a powerful statement by itself as well as part of a collaboration to add to the larger puzzle." Visitors can view "The Open Door" until Aug. 31 and the ongoing "Healing Wall" exhibit at VAS's new location: 243 Church Street NW, Suite 100LL.

— LISA FAY

OPINION

Support Local News

What do you love about where you live?

Adapted from a previous editorial ... Has your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac?

Have our papers taken note of your business when you pitch in to help the community? Or when you opened your doors or celebrated a milestone?

EDITORIAL Are you an elected official whose messages are enhanced by coverage of issues in the Connection?

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I have a special favor to ask:

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Show your support for our organization which continues to be here to support the forces of good in our communities.

Our annual Newcomers and Community Guide is a thematic paper publishing Aug. 28, 2019 for all 15 Connection Newspapers. Deadline is Aug. 22.

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The deadline for the Newcomers and Community Guide is Aug. 22. Digital enhancements and support are available. More information at email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

Share Tips about Community

We also need help from our readers for content of our annual Guide.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? What is it that you love most about where you live?

We will publish a selection of local viewpoints along with information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> by Aug. 23.

— MARY KIMM

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wexton Too Extreme for the 10th

To the Editor:

Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D) claims to represent the 10th congressional district as a moderate seeking broad-based appeal to win in this swing district. Yet, following repeated unanswered inquiries to her office over a period of six months, I finally received this response regarding her position on the impeachment of the President of the United States: "I am very concerned by... [his] disdain for the law" and claims, with unwavering confidence, "ten separate attempts... to obstruct justice" and "links between the Trump campaign and the Russian government" despite facts to the contrary. She states that "firing FBI Director James Comey" represents "the president's flagrant disregard [for the law]" and as evidence of "normalizing of authoritarian tactics" despite the President's constitutional authority to appoint and remove members of the Executive Branch. Members of Congress have a moral obligation to help educate constituents using facts. Yet, nothing she writes in her response is objective nor factual. Rather, the position she takes is full of immature, emotional dribble and a series of extreme talking points fed to her by the Democratic party. Jennifer

Wexton is not the moderate she pretends to be when elections roll around. The 10th Congressional District deserves strong, independent-minded leadership and Jennifer Wexton has none of what we need. This is one of many positions that she has taken that are too extreme for the 10th.

Please, check for yourself and do your homework. We can do better.

Ethel Pascal
Great Falls

'Summer Break' that Wasn't

To the Editor:

The final school bell rings and rushing to get out of school I can sense a feeling of relief on everyone's face that summer break is finally here.

I am a rising senior in high school and to this day I still do not understand the reason behind summer assignments. The argument many teachers may use is to keep our minds fresh over the summer or to make sure students have a background on the subject before coming into the class on the first day. The reality of it is that high school students' summer breaks are never real breaks. Coming into sophomore and junior year the dreadful SAT and ACT are two tests you cannot move out of the way. The summer is a very popular time to study for these two tests since during the school year,

time is of the essence. In addition, students will use endless amounts of time applying to and trying to find the best institution or university where students will spend their next four years. Not to mention a number of high school students, including me, have fallen victim to taking summer courses which you must work on for months.

As you can see, being a high school student means the summers have little "break" to offer, which means that summer assignments have little priority. Walking into class on the first day you can often see over half the class starting with a zero because of these summer assignments. The fact is that the content in summer assignments are often repeated in class anyway so the easiest fix for students and teachers is to get rid of them.

Ethan Pham
McLean

Senators Urged to Restore Fairness

To the Editor:

I heard, hundreds of children came back from school one day to an empty house, their parents having been taken into custody without warning for being undocumented immigrants. The president has claimed that undocumented immigrants are a threat to the

country, but the thought that the parents of schoolchildren constitute any measure of threat that would make the trauma inflicted on these kids justified is preposterous.

I urge Sen. Kaine and Sen. Warner to keep working hard to bring justice and fairness into this country, because we need good people like them in positions of power at this critical moment of our country's history. Any energy they could direct towards trying to abate these terrible policies and bring some relief to these families is both necessary and well appreciated. I urge the Senators to please keep fighting for the best interest of all the American people.

Anthony Murphy-Neilson
Herndon

What Do You Think?

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Vienna & Oakton
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NEWS

If You Were Impacted by the July 8 Flooding, Apply for Financial Assistance at a Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Virginia has received approval from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for a Federal Disaster Declaration as a result of the July 8 rain storm in Northern Virginia. The four declared Virginia localities are Fairfax County, Arlington County and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. The SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans to businesses, renters and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

As part of the process, the SBA will be establishing two Disaster Loan Outreach Centers (DLOC) to assist affected residents from Tuesday, Aug. 13 through Monday, Aug. 19. Fairfax County's DLOC will be located at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/tysons-pimmit-regional>), 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Another DLOC will be located in Arlington County at the Arlington County Trades Center, 2700 S. Taylor Street (Parks and Natural Resources Conference Center) in Arlington. Fairfax County residents can visit either location, however, the Fairfax County location will also have information on county resources.

Hours of Operation:


- ❖ Tuesday, Aug. 13 through Thursday, Aug. 15: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, Aug. 16: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Aug. 17: 1-5 p.m.
- ❖ Sunday, Aug. 18: Closed
- ❖ Monday, Aug. 19: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

You can also complete your application online any time by going to <https://DisasterLoan.SBA.gov/ELA> (<https://DisasterLoan.SBA.gov/ELA>).

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers affordable financial help to homeowners and renters in declared disaster areas. Help is available in the form of low-interest, long-term loans for losses not fully covered by insurance or other means. You may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace your primary home to its pre-disaster condition. But unless required by building code, you cannot use the loan to upgrade or add on to the home. In some cases, SBA may be able to refinance all or part of a previous mortgage (not to exceed \$200,000), assuming that you meet these conditions: You don't have credit available elsewhere. You have a substantially damaged property. You intend to repair or replace the damaged property. SBA considers refinancing when processing each application. They may also be able to increase the loan up to 20 percent of the confirmed physical losses (not to exceed \$200,000).

You could use the loan increase to make improvements that may help protect your home from future disasters. This could include improvements like retaining walls, seawalls, sump pumps, safe rooms and storm shelters. Second homes and vacation properties are not eligible. Qualified rental properties may qualify for a business disaster loan.

FAIRFAX COUNTY EMERGENCY INFORMATION




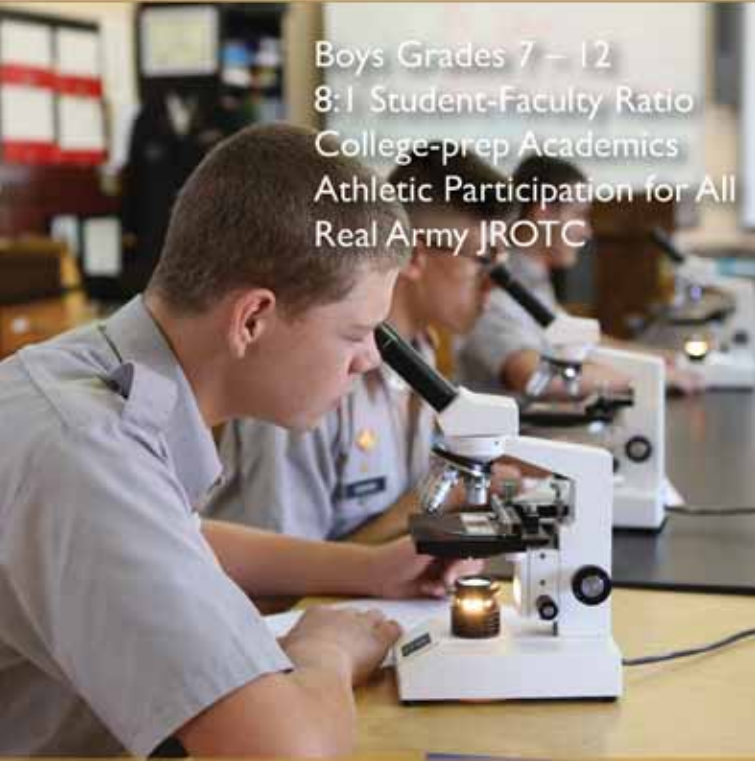
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SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Newcomers & Community Guide August 28, 2019

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

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Home LifeStyle



PHOTOS BY JOHN COLE

This kitchen and dining area by Anthony Wilder Design/Build includes a workstation concealed behind doors (shown open and closed) to keep the family organized.

Home Organization For a New School Year

Accessories and design elements to create a smooth start.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As a new school year looms large over the horizon, the hectic reality of packing lunches, buying school supplies and making space for new backpacks comes into focus. Making time for home organization can decrease stress before the school bus arrives.

The kitchen is often the of nucleus or command center of a family's home, especially during the school year. To help quell the chaos, Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build suggests centralization. "A snack station and breakfast center can be great for letting the kids get food on their own while you get together meals and lunches," she said. "The snack station [can be] a drawer in the kitchen that kids can go into at anytime to get healthy snacks. Granola bars, nuts, crackers, dried fruit, can be pre-measured for individual servings for easy grab and go."

Getting dressed in the morning can become a source of tension, but Sallie Finney Kjos of Grey Hunt Interiors says that she incorporates an elegant design solution

into the bedrooms of her clients homes that helps ease the day-break anxiety.

"Get a basket for each kid and roll their outfits for the day, tie them together and place them upright in the basket," she said. "Give your kid independence and let them pick out their own clothes. Not only will their outfits match, but you'll know that they didn't create a mess finding the perfect shirt."

In fact, baskets can offer a versatile and chic method of organization throughout one's home says, Courtney Thomas of home accessories store, The Picket

"Baskets are an easy and often inexpensive way to contain clutter."

— Courtney Thomas,
The Picket Fence

Fence. "They are available in endless sizes and styles," she said. "Baskets are an easy and often inexpensive way to contain clutter. Larger ones are perfect for blankets and pillows, smaller ones keep toys corralled, and there are even baskets with file hangers to keep ... papers organized. If baskets aren't your style, we also love using vintage boxes and crates to serve the same function."

Getting creative with clear containers can help maintain order without sacrificing a home's aesthetic, says Thomas. "You can find

options that are much more stylish than the traditional plastic tub," she said. "Since they are see-through it's easy to see what's inside and find what you need. Use mason jars for pencils and crayons." A coffee table can serve double duty as both a home accessory and a clandestine storage space, says Kjos. "They can be a catch all for busy families," she said. "Consider topping them with a few decorative boxes to hold needed items." Over the course of a school year, a home's mud room can become a black hole of backpacks, soccer cleats and lacrosse sticks. "Having a locker with a door for each child gives the mudroom a clean, organized feel," said Kadwell. "The kids don't need to be neat and tidy inside their own spaces."

Back-to-school organization can extend to the laundry rooms, continues Kadwell. "Set up drop stations to have kids drop off clothes that are in need of washing," she said. "Have bins in an easy to get to space for the kids that are labeled whites, darks and towels. Kids can place their clothing in them according to the labels. This helps cut down the laundry time by having them already sorted."

A family calendar to keep track of deadlines, appointments, and events is a must-have, continued Kadwell. "[Place it] at a level kids can see," she said. "This can be a whole wall that you can paint with a magnetic chalk paint and create a paneled wall effect."

OBITUARY

Stefan Krieger, 52, of Oakton

Stefan Johannes Krieger, 52, of Oakton, died on July 8 of stomach cancer following a brief illness. He and his family have lived in Oakton since 2009.

Born in Germany on Sept. 7, 1966 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Stefan was the son of Louise Antoinette Asselin Krieger and Wolfgang Josef Krieger, emeritus professor of mathematics at the



University of Heidelberg. A German-American dual citizen who cherished his European heritage, Stefan spent his adult life in the United States, graduating from Harvard College in 1989 and receiving his PhD in Economics in 1998 from the University of Chicago.

Stefan spent his entire career as a theoretical macroeconomist, first as an assistant professor at Yale University, and then as a hedge fund portfolio manager. He ended his career at Freddie Mac in

McLean where, among other work, he developed an industry-leading house price index that was at the core of Freddie Mac's mortgage risk modeling in the aftermath of the 2008 housing crisis.

Economics was Stefan's first love, but his extensive book collection testifies to his other consuming interests: the sciences (particularly physics), mathematics, politics, history and law. He loved intellectual conversation as much as learning, and combining both with a mountain hike was his

idea of paradise. He wanted to spend his later years with his family, visiting the world's natural wonders before they were lost to climate change.

He is survived by his wife, Eliza Morss, and three teenage daughters, Alexandra, Helen and Anne. In addition to his parents, Stefan is survived in Germany by a sister, Karin Kaldewey; a brother, Matthias; as well as a nephew and three nieces.

A memorial service will be held in October, in Cambridge, Mass.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 2

Animal Case — 200 Block Commons Drive, NW July 27 8:40 a.m. A resident reported that he was bitten by a dog while out walking. The dog was on a leash and out on a walk with a woman that is providing foster care for him. The bitten man was attempting to pet the dog on his head when the dog nipped his hand. The dog was placed on a ten-day quarantine.

Assault — The Fresh Market 150 Branch Road, SE July 31, 3:15 p.m. A citizen reported that after he blew his horn at a driver that did not drive forward when a traffic light turned green, the other driver followed him through several streets within the Town of Vienna. Once the citizen parked in a parking lot and exited his vehicle, the other driver confronted him. Words were exchanged between both drivers. The unidentified driver then struck the citizen in the head, knocking him to the ground, and left the scene. The other driver was identified by police, but the victim refused to press charges.

Arrest - Drunk in Public — 1400 Block of Desale St, SW July 31, 3:24 p.m. A resident reported an unknown subject was wandering in her backyard and appeared to be intoxicated. Officers responded to the residence and located the subject. Upon their interaction with the subject, officers detected signs of impairment. Ofc. Wallace arrested the 41-year-old man from Patrick St SE in Vienna. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with being Drunk In Public.

Narcotics Violation — 7-11 427 Maple Avenue, East July 31, 11:54 p.m. While on routine patrol, PFC Williams initiated a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, narcotics were located inside the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle was issued a summons for possession of Marijuana.

Suspicious Event — 400 Block Holmes Court, NW Aug. 1 Between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. A resident reported that someone had entered the backyard of her property and shut off the gas. It was later determined that the gas company had come in during the day and turned off the gas to replace the meter.

Animal Case — Hope Advanced Veterinary Center 140 Park Street, SE Aug. 1, 10:20 p.m. An employee reported that a cat bit him during a procedure. The cat was placed on a 10-day quarantine.

Suspicious Event — 100 Block East St, NE Aug. 1, 11:32 p.m. A resident wanted to talk with a police officer about how to report a missing

adult.

Exposure — Alma Street, SE — Delano Drive, SE Aug. 2, 10:20 a.m. A resident reported that she observed a suspicious man on the bike path. The resident decided to follow the man and saw him near a metal bridge. The subject had his pants to his ankles and was masturbating in public. The resident quickly left the area and called the police. Several officers responded and searched the surrounding areas but were not able to locate the subject.

Arrest - Drunk in Public — Locust Street, SE Aug. 3, 1:11 a.m. Two residents reported an unknown subject was wandering in their backyards. Officers responded to the area and located the subject in one of the backyards of the residences. Upon their interaction with the subject, officers detected signs of impairment. Ofc. Farr arrested the 25-year-old man from East Indian Wells Place in Chandler, Ariz. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with being Drunk In Public.

Property Lost — Jammin Java 227 Maple Avenue, East Aug. 3, 3:25 a.m. The man arrested reported to Ofc Farr that he had lost his cell phone before his contact with officers. The man stated that the last time he saw his cell phone was at Jammin Java. Officers searched the surrounding areas but were unable to find his cell phone.

Narcotics Violation — 300 Block Walker Street, SW Aug. 3, 9:42 a.m. Officers responded to a noise complaint at this location. While interviewing a worker at the location went into his vehicle to get his wallet. Officers detected the smell of Marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. Upon searching the vehicle, Marijuana was located. The suspect was issued a summons for possession of Marijuana.

Petit Larceny — StarbucksM362 Maple Avenue, East Aug. 3, 3:20 p.m. An employee reported that an unknown man drove up to the drive-through without placing an order. The man reached through the drive-through window and stole a tip jar before driving off. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the man.

Suspicious Event — 200 Block Park Terrace Court, SE Aug. 4, 1 p.m. A concerned citizen reported screaming coming from nearby. Officers searched the area and located the residence that appeared to be the source of the screaming. Officers spoke with the resident about the screaming and determined that no violation of law had taken place.

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At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer's first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Self Portraits. Business hours through mid August at Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. See self portraits by Forestville Elementary School, third grade artists in the meeting room at Starbucks. The show curated by FES Art Teacher, Renee Riddell, is presented by Great Falls Studios in cooperation with Great Falls Starbucks. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com for more.

Registration Open: NVSO. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Paper registrations, available at most local recreation and senior centers, must be postmarked by Aug. 24. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us.

Junior Golf Fairfax Camps, Clinics and Competition. Burke Lake Golf Center is located at 6915 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Pinecrest Golf Course is located at 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior.

❖ In one-session introductory Junior Golf clinics, kids and teens learn basic golf rules, etiquette of the game, get familiarized with different types of clubs and acquire skills for putting and chipping in a social and relaxed environment. Clubs and practice balls provided. Clinics are offered at Burke Lake, Oak Marr and Pinecrest golf courses for \$15 each in August.

❖ Golf camp week-long sessions are still open – campers learn putting, chipping, iron and woods play from certified instructors in a friendly, group atmosphere. Course etiquette and best safety practices will teach kids and teens fundamentals while they socialize and have fun. Clubs are not required but suggested. All campers will receive a certificate and golf fun pack upon camp completion. Burke Lake Golf Center and Twin Lakes Golf Course offer half day summer camp, Pinecrest Golf Course offers both half and full day summer camp options. Oak Marr Golf Complex offers half day spring and summer camp through Everybody Golf School.

❖ Course-ready juniors will enjoy the Junior Club Championship, Aug. 16, 8 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Golf Center. Golfers participate in an 18-hole individual stroke competition. Competitors will be separated into three divisions with first, second, and third place prizes available in all divisions. Lunch provided. Call 703-323-1641 to register.

Art Exhibit: Vienna Arts Society Reception. Through Aug. 31, 3-5 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, Window Building, 243 Church St. NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites the public to a reception celebrating two exhibitions. The “Healing Wall” is created by troops on the mend at Fort Belvoir Hospital. “The Open Door” features a judged photography exhibition. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Oak Marr Farmers’ Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECcenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Vendors include produce, meats, eggs, cheeses, pies, cured and smoked meats, popsicles, sorbet, bread, croissants, falafel sandwiches, humus, and pesto. Call 703-281-6501 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, coffee, and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1



Chillin’ on Church

Live music, food trucks, and beer and wine sales. Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged, but pets are not. You must be 21 years or older with a valid photo ID to purchase alcoholic beverages. Chillin’ on Church is presented courtesy of Ben and Jerry’s. Admission is free. Friday, Aug. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Church Street between Dominion and Mill roads.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BENTWOOD ROCKERS

The Bentwood Rockers, from left, Dave Goldman, Alan Cohen, Ken Tackett, Pat Markham, and Stafford Markham.

Live Music: Bentwood Rockers

The Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) hosts a benefit performance with the Bentwood Rockers. Enjoy some fabulous foot-stomping Bluegrass music. Friday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m. (doors open 5:30) at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20-\$25 at www.jamminjava.com. To volunteer, donate or learn more, visit www.scov.org.

p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Nottoway Nights: The Seldom Scene. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-18

Grand Opening: Blend 111. At Blend 111, 111 Church St., Vienna. An independently owned bistro, Blend 111 serves farm-to-kitchen organic food, coffee, cold pressed juices, and organic French and Spanish wines. They will launch their permanent menu along with new prix-fixe lunch and dinner options. Drink and food specials all week. Blend 111 is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 703-232-1640 or visit blend111.com for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 16

Summer on the Green: Big Bad JuJu (rock and dance covers) . 6:30 p.m. on Vienna’s

potomacfestival.org/race.html for more.

Wagon Ride at Riverbend. 10-11:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Travel by the Potomac River and through the woods while learning about Riverbend Park’s wildlife and the American Indians who once lived here. For participants age 2-adult. \$7 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Stand-Up Paddleboarding Skills. Noon-2 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Raise paddleboarding skills to the next level with “Stand-Up Paddleboarding II.” This course includes a quick review of skills and safety before new strokes, board maneuvers and safety topics are taught and developed. For paddleboarders age 13-adult. \$50 per person; all equipment will be provided. Required prerequisite: Stand-Up Paddleboarding I or equivalent experience. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

SUNDAY/AUG. 18

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

Wood Carving Lessons. Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Whittle out some time for “Wood Carving Lessons” at Colvin Run Mill with the Northern Virginia Carvers. No reservations are required. These lessons are designed for participants 12-adult. There is a nominal charge for wood blanks. Or enjoy a “Grinding Demonstration.” See and hear 19th century technology at work while watching the miller grind flour or meal. Demonstrations will take place as conditions permit. No reservations are required. Tours of the mill cost \$8 for adults, \$7 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$6 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

TUESDAY/AUG. 20

Kids on the Green: Beech Tree Puppets. 10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Nottoway Nights: Billy Coulter. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, through Aug. 22. Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/AUG. 23

Summer on the Green: Wayne Tympanick Trio (jazz). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna’s Town Green. Friday nights through Aug. 23. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25

Album Release Party. 7-9 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ricky Parrell is going to release his debut album “Keys To My Life” featuring Randy Brecker of The Brecker Bro. and Justin Stanton of Snarky Puppy. \$10. Call 703-501-2657 or visit rickyparrell.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 26

Back to School. Fairfax County Public Schools first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/calendars/2019-20-standard-school-year-calendar.

SATURDAY/AUG. 31

Woodstock 50th Party. 7-11 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Woodstock 50th and Rock ‘n Roll heaven with The Rockits, Randall (Elvis) Rivers and guests. Sixty songs from the ‘60s. Dine, drink, and dance. \$10 advance. Call 703-281-4679 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Miscommunication Leads to SWAT Action, Evacuation

In the end, Chief Edwin Roessler's prayers were answered. "The investigation is ongoing but we don't have any evidence that a crime occurred – we're thankful that this was a non-event."

But the "non-event" caused a lot of commotion and disruption in McLean last week, in the anxious days after multiple mass shootings around the country.

On Tuesday, a former employee of a business in the USA Today building sent a "suspicious" group text message to some of his former colleagues but there were no direct threats, according to Fairfax County Police.

The following day, an employee in the building overheard two co-workers discussing the text message and asked another employee for additional information.

There was a language barrier and through the use of a cell phone translator program, the message was interpreted as a present threat of a man in the building with a gun. Building security relayed the information they received to our dispatch center, prompting the emergency response. Our investigation determined that no one was actually seen with a gun and we do not have any evidence that the subject who sent the text message was at the building on Wednesday.

"We're thankful that this was a non-event."

— Chief Edwin Roessler Jr.

No evidence of criminal activity was found after officers searched an office building located at 7950 Jones Branch Drive in McLean. Officers were initially called shortly before noon when an employee of the building reported a man with a gun. No gunshots or acts of violence were reported but officers, along with members of our Special Operations Division, meticulously searched the building while employees sheltered in place until they could be safely evacuated.

A person of interest was identified in an unrelated area of the county and officers spoke with him, however, criminal charges are not expected. According to Chief Edwin Roessler Jr.

Congregation Beth Emeth Names New Youth Director

Congregation Beth Emeth (CBE) has announced the appointment of Zach Moskowitz as Youth Director. His appointment comes as the previous Youth Director, Jenny Rubin, moves to a full-time position with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) youth programs. Moskowitz started as Youth Director on July 22, and will also teach in Beth Emeth's Religious School starting in the fall.

"We are thrilled to have Zach join our staff in this full-time role," says Melissa Heifetz, the synagogue's Executive Director. "He has the skills, enthusiasm and commitment to our youth programs to bring us to the next level."

Moskowitz is excited to be taking up the position of Youth Director. "I literally grew up in the halls of Beth Emeth, where both of my parents have spent years teaching children at all levels," he says. "From Beth Emeth Early Childhood Center (BEECC) through Confirmation, Beth Emeth was my second home. I



Zach Moskowitz

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

was an active member of the synagogue's youth groups from middle school through high school, making lifelong friends along the way. I realize all of the amazing things that Beth Emeth's youth programs did for me, and it is my goal to provide excitement, community, and a strong Jewish identity for the next generation. I look forward to beginning this new journey in our Beth Emeth community."

Moskowitz has been Beth Emeth's Kadima (middle school youth group) Advisor for 6 years, as well as serving on the regional youth program staff supporting USCJ programs for middle school through high school. He was also CBE's Interim Youth Director in 2015. In addition to his roles with Beth Emeth and regional youth programs, he has worked as a childcare professional for the past four years through the Fairfax County Program, School Age Child Care (SACC).

To learn more, visit bethemeth.org.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Shepherd's Center to Host Caregivers Treat Event

The 2019 Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's Caregivers Treat event will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. The event is free and is open to caregivers of adult family members with dementia. The event offers a special half day of relaxation, socialization, and a sharing of experiences. Activities include massages, exchange of ideas, breakfast and lunch, and speakers. Guests are invited to sign in from 9-9:30 am and join fellow caregivers as they enjoy coffee, juice and snacks. Registration is required.

For additional information and registration, contact Shepherd's Center 703-281-0538, office@scov.org. Deadline to register: Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019. This event is supported by AARP, Arden Courts-Annandale and Fair Oaks, and insight Memory Care Centers.

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) hosts this annual free 4-hour "Treat" for family caregivers of adults with dementia. Caregivers of spouses, parents or family members are invited.

BACK TO SCHOOL



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

More than 50 families visited Marshall Road's pop-up library and received books to take home.

Creating a Community of Readers

Jennifer Heiges, Principal, Marshall Road ES:

Marshall Road Elementary School is beaming with excitement as the new school year approaches. We have hired many new staff members who bring energy and enthusiasm to our campus. We will continue on our journey of creating an inclusive environment, looking at everything we do through an equity lens. We continue to practice Responsive Classroom, Yoga4 Classrooms, The Positivity Project and Making our Thinking Visible. We are growing our STEAM Program and engaging our community through a STEAM Night this fall. Our entire school will participate in MRES' first book challenge. We will engage our students, teachers and parents in becoming a community of readers. We began this adventure with a pop-up library at Circle Towers this summer. More than 50 families visited our library and received books to take home. As per our tradition, we will have our annual Runathon this fall. All MRES students will receive a t-shirt, run laps, and raise money for our school. We look forward



Jennifer Heiges

to spending a beautiful fall day together running and celebration our health and wellness. Every Wednesday at MRES will be Wellness Wednesday in 2019-2020. We will encourage our community to participate by eating healthy, drinking lots of water, getting active and learning about how to live a healthy and positive lifestyle. The Marshall Road Community looks forward to the 19-20 school year as it is filled with possibility and wonder. All are welcome to visit and participate.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DONATIONS NEEDED

School Supply and Backpack

Drive. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Parent Resource Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Room 105, Dunn Loring. For the nearly 56,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools living at the poverty line, obtaining school supplies can be difficult. FCPS is partnering with roughly 20 nonprofits and businesses to ensure that students will have the supplies they need this fall for its "Collect for Kids" campaign. A \$25 donation will fill a backpack with FCPS approved supplies for a student. Organize a collection drive of new backpacks in your community and bring to one of

the Collect for Kids drop off locations. Visit www.collectforkids.org/get-involved or call 703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Employment

Veterinary Assistant
position open at Adams Mill
Veterinary Hospital. Will train.
Please call Kelly at:
703-757-7570

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News

Selecting a New Life for Historic Ellmore Farmhouse

**Park Authority
welcomes comments
on curator applications.**

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority announced it is asking the public to submit comments in writing by Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, regarding the two applications under review for its Resident Curator Program at the historic Ellmore Farmhouse, 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon. Curators are determined through an open and competitive application process, based on several criteria, including a formal proposal, demonstrated experience, competency in historic preservation techniques, financial capabilities, and the incorporation of public benefits. Completed applications can be viewed online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program/ellmore.

The Evaluation Team will hold a meeting open to the public concerning the applications on Thursday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m. in the Park Authority boardroom, 9th floor of the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, but there will be no opportunity for public comment at that time.

In the first of the two cover letters and completed applications sent to Stephanie Langton, resident curator program manager, Applicant #1 stated: "We have been coming to Frying Pan Farm Park for more than a decade with our four children. ...We would enjoy the opportunity to make the Ellmore Farmhouse a place where children can learn and play again. Our children, much like the Ellmore and Smith children, have had the opportunity to spend time learning about farming and caring for animals through the 4-H... Living in the Ellmore Farmhouse would allow us more time to learn and share with others about the original families and animals that lived here on this property."

Regarding skills, Applicant #1 stated: "I do not have any specialized skills in historic preservation projects outside of the general remodeling and construction skills I have learned over the years doing projects on the houses I have lived in... I am a Mechanical Engineer working in Aerospace... On a daily basis, I am required to pay attention to details, follow strict standards, and know the requirements of a task prior to acting on it."

In the other cover letter and completed application, Applicant #2 stated: "After rehabilitation and renovations are completed, ServiceSource proposes using the Ellmore Farmhouse as a "launchpad" for one of our Long-Term and Community Integration Services (LTCIS) programs. A group of approximately 15 people with disabilities and staff will gather at the Ellmore Farmhouse from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday... ServiceSource has a 47-year history of providing high-quality, innovative programming in Northern Virginia. In FY 2018, we served more than 4,000 people with disabilities through long-term and



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Ellmore Farmhouse within Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon, Hunter Mill Supervisory District, Owner: Fairfax County Park Authority.

community integration services, senior services, employment supports, and other services."

Regarding skills, Applicant #2 stated: "To rehabilitate and renovate this historic property, ServiceSource has selected Pizzano Contractors as a partner for this project...Pizzano Contractors was an early adopter in the "Green Building" movement and continues to demonstrate leadership in this area...Pizzano Contractors continue to include LEED design and best practices in their projects... Additionally, Pizzano Contractors has extensive experience in renovating historic properties, including former residences, for modern times-a major asset for the Ellmore Farmhouse project."

According to the Park Authority, the farmhouse is a two-story, 3,300-square-foot property within Frying Pan Farm Park. Members of the Ellmore family occupied the two-story, 12 room home for more than 50 years, operating a productive dairy farm there through 1945. In February 2001, the Park Authority purchased the property for inclusion within Frying Pan Farm Park. The Resident Curator Program provides the opportunity for individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations to secure long-term lease agreements in beautiful public park settings. The curator leases are without charge in exchange for a financial commitment towards approved rehabilitation of the Park Authority's underutilized historic properties.

For additional information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program. Or contact Stephanie Langton, manager of the Resident Curator Program, at 703-324-8791. Web: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/z-ir126>.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 21

4th Annual Clergy Breakfast. 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, SW, Vienna. This once-a-year connection continues to build fellowship and goodwill throughout the year as attendees collectively address common issues. All faiths are welcome. RSVP by Aug. 16 at 703-281-0538 or office@scov.org.

Public Comment Sought. The Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, under the leadership of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), are developing a plan to study Virginia's 179 miles of the Interstate 95 corridor between the Woodrow Wilson Bridge in Alexandria, Virginia and the North Carolina border. The first comment period will end Aug. 21, 2019. For more information about the study, or to view meeting materials and access the online engagement tool, visit VA95Corridor.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Hispanic Connect NOVA. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 8300 Boone Blvd. in the Partners' Conference Room, Suite 450, Vienna. Join the Virginia Hispanic Chamber for this recurring event series designed for chamber members and newcomers alike. Members, business owners, community leaders, entrepreneurs and more connect with their peers, share ideas and gain useful knowledge. Free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Register at www.vahcc.com/hispanic-connect-nova.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Large Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Unity of Fairfax will host a large, indoor, church yard sale with hundreds of items from many households and a restaurant liquidation. Free admission. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 25

Servicio Español (Spanish-Service). 2-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. El reverendo Johannys Hartog, cofundador de unityparatodos.org, el principal recurso del movimiento Unity para materiales en español dirigirá un servicio dominical en español. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/calendar/2019-08/spanish-sunday-service

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28-SEPT. 25

Community Emergency Response Team Training. 7-11 p.m. at the Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains county residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/184989 to register.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Beyond #MeToo: Strategies for Preventing & Responding to Harassment. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Fairfax County EDA, 8300 Boone Boulevard, Ste. 450 Tysons. Presented by the Multicultural Chambers Alliance (Asian-American CC, NVBCC, The Virginia Hispanic Chamber). Free. Visit www.vahcc.com or call 703-790-0303 to register.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Application Deadline: Youth Leadership Scholarship. The Great Falls Rotary is offering grants to high school juniors or seniors for a leadership camp taking place Oct. 4-6 in Prince William Forest Park, Virginia. Free to scholarship winners. Call 703-759-3858 or visit www.rotarygreatfallsva.org/Ryla for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold an informational Open House. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Membership dues discount for those who join at this event. Refreshments. Free. Visit vienna-va.aauw.net/ for more.

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Don't Monkee Around With Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I mean, he didn't even examine me, which he rarely does. (The CT scan pretty much tells him what he needs to know, so he says.)

In addition (or is that subtraction), he didn't even ask me the standard questions he typically does about my quality of life, activities of daily living and general health and welfare. In fact, near the presumptive end of our appointment, as peculiar and uncharacteristic of an appointment as it was, I felt compelled to blurt out the answers to all the questions that he didn't bother to ask that for years he's always asked: any pain, shortness of breath, coughing, headaches, neuropathy, muscle weakness or any new or persistent symptoms? All he could muster was a perfunctory "Do you need any prescriptions filled?"

And then the semi-out-of-the-blue-bombshell: "Are you familiar with Palliative Care?"

Followed by the offer to refer us to a book that he thought we might find helpful/useful.

Helpful? Useful?

I didn't say it at the time because the entire appointment was so odd and impersonal almost. But WHAT?! Palliative Care? What are you talking about? He has never brought up palliative care before. (Although way back when, he had given us a brochure titled "Final Wishes.")

You see, we know about palliative care. We've attended multiple conferences organized by LUNgevity, "the largest national lung cancer-focused non-profit in the country" where palliative care doctors often have spoken. Palliative Care is not hospice care but it's a transitional level of care to be sure.

If I'm transitioning, I wish somebody would have told me, and not by asking about my familiarity with this type of care.

In a word, palliative care is a type of down-sizing, as best as I can describe its subtleties; separate and apart from hospice care which is, if you don't know it, "the last train to Clarksville," if you get my euphemism (and hopefully someone is meeting you at the station)? But so far as I've been told, I'm not on the last train to Clarksville or any other final destination.

In fact, I rarely take the train. Not that being on or off the train matters when one comes to the end of the line.

Nevertheless, as I review in my mind what my oncologist said this past Monday, I have to wonder if he was feeding me a line, throwing me a line or just reciting a line that is required of oncologists in their regular communications with their cancer patients – a sort of caveat emptor for long-time cancer survivors who are inexplicably still alive (as evidence of such sentiment, my oncologist refers to me as his "third miracle").

But I didn't feel much like a miracle on Monday. I felt more like a dope. Like I was being told something I didn't realize, sort of an emperor has no clothes "something." It was a feeling I had never experienced before; during or after any of our appointments.

Previously, even at the initial Team Lourie meeting in late February 2009 when the hammer came down, I had – though having it in utter disbelief – a grasp of the obvious: "terminal cancer," with a "13-month-to-two-year" prognosis to boot. The particulars of which would be sorted out over the following weeks and months beginning with my first chemotherapy six days later.

And boy were they ever sorted. Ten years and almost six months later, I'm still sorting.

Was I just given an updated "terminal" diagnosis/prognosis or was my oncologist merely having an off day?

Obviously he knows that his words carry enormous weight and significance and create terrible burdens for his patients and their families. But he can't simply toss out the phrase palliative care like it has no impact. Its impact is huge.

It's akin to being hit by a speeding train, the likes of which would prevent one from getting anywhere near Clarksville, let alone being on the last train.

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



Veteran of World War II Bob Shawn with his wife, right, and Robert Jones, former sergeant in Marine Corps, with his wife Pamela.



Gary and Shelly Kaihara became the cosponsors of the event more than 10 years ago.

Saying Thank-you to Blue Star Moms in Great Falls

Bob Nelson hosts another Military Appreciation Monday at the Old Brogue.

BY NADEZHDA SHULGA
THE CONNECTION

This Monday a monthly fundraising dinner at The Old Brogue in Great Falls was held in support of the Blue Star Mothers organization.

This monthly event brings people with open hearts together to do good for those who serve for peace and their families.

For more than a decade, Bob Nelson, former CIA officer and now a Realtor, has been hosting a variety of fundraising events for the service members. These meetups have brought more than \$2 million to those who are in need of such support.

Nelson's good friend, Nathan Ross Chapman, was the very first service member to be killed in an ambush in eastern Afghanistan on Jan. 4, 2002. Nelson decided to launch the monthly Military Appreciation Monday initiative in memory of Chapman.

"He left behind two young children," Nelson said. "People like him never got much recognition. I thought about him all the time. One day I heard a commercial on the radio for a group called Our Military Kids. At that moment I've decided to do fundraisers for different military support organizations".

ON MONDAY, AUG. 12, the event was co-hosted by Blue Star Mothers, a non-profit that provides support for mothers who have sons or daughters in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We support each other, we do a lot of work with our veterans," said Donna Long, president of Chapter 5 of the Blue Star Mothers. "We send 'We care' packages to U.S. military units across the



Donna Long, president of the Blue Star Mothers, demonstrates 'We care' package.

"We send 'We care' packages to U.S. military units across the world to let them know how much we appreciate their work."

**— Donna Long,
president of Chapter 5 of the
Blue Star Mothers**



Robert Jones, former sergeant in Marine Corps, with his wife Pamela.

world to let them know how much we appreciate their work. This is a way of saying thank you."

Both of her sons are Marines. One is serving in Japan and another is in North Carolina. She understands what it means to be a mom of those who are deployed. Even when the children are not at war, the mothers often deal with stress. Deployment to war creates new issues for them to handle.

"You can receive bad news at any time. Any moment somebody could be knocking on the door saying that your child has died in combat," Long continued. "A lot of people

just don't understand that stress. We do understand."

Gary and Shelly Kaihara have been cosponsors of the Military Appreciation Monday from the very beginning.

"I never served in the military," Gary Kaihara said, "but there has always been something that I supported. If I'm in a better position to support the military and although I can't do anything as far as serving, this seems like a good way to support them."

Two guests at the dinner have fascinating stories.

Bob Shawn, at the age of 99, is one of the country's oldest surviving World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War veterans. Sharing the dinner — and his story — with him made many participants feel honored.

Robert Jones, a retired Marine Corps sergeant, joined the dinner with his wife, Pamela Relph. He lost the bottom of both of his legs in 2010 while serving in Afghanistan as a combat engineer. He is not letting the loss stop him from

living an active life. Jones rode a bike across America to raise money for veterans' charities; ran 31 Marathons in 31 days; got a bronze medal in the London Paralympics in 2012.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DINNERS are held on the second Monday of every month at the Old Brogue in Great Falls.

If you would like to join next time for the Military Appreciation Monday, just call the Old Brogue at 703- 759-3309, make a reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating, and order from the Old Brogue menu.