

**SEE
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INSIDE**

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

INSIDE

What's on the Local Horizon

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Excellent Schools, Parks, Events

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Back to School In Chantilly

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Families have fun at Springfest, Fairfax County's Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration, at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly.

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NEWCOMERS

My Last Welcome Letter For Connection Newcomers

BY SHARON BULOVA,
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



When I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987 the Braddock District was called Annandale. Fairfax County's population (now 1.15 million) was approximately 746,600. There was no VRE (Virginia Railway Express Commuter Rail System) nor was there a Springfield Franconia Metro Station or a Fairfax County Parkway. When I took office as a freshman Supervisor in January 1988, Fairfax County was, for the most part, a rapidly growing suburban bedroom community. Tysons was still just a shopping mall. I will be retiring at the end of December, after serving 31 years on the Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors — 11 years as Chairman and 20 years before that as the Braddock District Supervisor. What I have come to understand over these many years is that the one thing you can be certain of is that things will change. Indeed, a lot has changed over that span of time.

During the past decade while I have had the honor to serve you as Chairman, Fairfax County has:

- ❖ Navigated the financial crises caused by the Great Recession with the County's coveted triple A bond rating by all three rating agencies still intact;
- ❖ Welcomed Metro's Silver Line to Tysons and Reston, with a station at Dulles Airport to open next year;
- ❖ Ushered in new land use plans for Tysons and other aging commercial and industrial areas of the County in need of revitalization;

- ❖ Reengineered our police policies to include more transparency and de-escalation tactics with a focus on the sanctity of life;
- ❖ Created Diversion First, a program for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, experiencing an encounter with law enforcement to receive treatment instead of incarceration;
- ❖ Updated the County's Environmental Vision to include a new focus on Energy Efficiency and Climate;
- ❖ Strengthened collaboration between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board in the areas of budget development, land use planning and joint environmental initiatives;
- ❖ Reduced homelessness by nearly 50% employing a Housing First strategy to put a roof over homeless individuals' heads and connecting them to resources needed to help them get back on their feet;
- ❖ Lastly, and most importantly, our Board,

in partnership with the School Board, established One Fairfax, a social and racial equity compact, to ensure that ALL residents of Fairfax County have access to equitable opportunities for success.

I have been deeply honored to serve the residents of Fairfax County for these many years. I will really miss this job! Jurisdictions throughout the country look to Fairfax County as a leader and innovator, and I am proud, working with my colleagues on the Board and our excellent County staff, to have led our county to where it is today. Fairfax County is an awesome place, with a culture of engagement, acceptance of different cultures and backgrounds and a willingness to work together to resolve conflicts.

Fairfax County is poised for many exciting opportunities ahead. I am confident the next Board of Supervisors, in partnership with members of the community, will continue the positive momentum we are known for.

Excellent Schools, Parks, Events Supervisor welcomes you to Sully District.

BY KATHY SMITH
SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Top 10 Places, Events in District

Starlight Cinema at Trinity Center
Antique Car Show at Sully Historic Site
Centreville Day, Oct. 19, 2019
Centreville Historic District
Mt. Gilead and Sears House
Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum
Walney Pond – Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
Cub Run Recreation Center
Sully Senior Center
Bull Run Regional Park

Welcome to the Sully District.



Kathy Smith

I am your Sully District Supervisor, Kathy Smith, and I represent our community on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. At the crossroads of major highways and adjacent to Washington Dulles International Airport, the Sully District is dotted with thriving office parks and wonderful amenities.

One of the great things about living in the Sully District is the array of public events and activities that happen throughout the year. The Starlight Drive-in Cinema takes place on the first four Saturdays in August as part of the Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series. Come watch a movie under the stars at the Trinity Centre in Centreville. Admission is free.

This year I held the second Sully District Summer Open House & Food Drive. Attendees learned about Summer RECenter classes, toured the Sully District Office, and much more.

Coming up on Oct. 19, 2019 we have the annual Centreville Day celebration – a lo-



Madison Hummer, 7, pets Rodeo, a rescue terrier mix from Hart Homeless Animals, during Centreville Day 2018. This year's event will be held on Oct. 19.

cal favorite. The event includes family-friendly activities, entertainment, and a parade.

Our region is also lucky to include the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. If you have not been yet, I highly recommend visiting soon and taking in a movie at their IMAX movie theater. Parking is free after 4

p.m.

The Field at Commonwealth center is a newly constructed 169,264 square foot mixed use site located in Chantilly. The anchor store, Wegmans, opened on June 3, 2018, and other restaurants and retail stores have occupied space in the shopping center since the Wegmans opening. The prop-

erty also includes a light up interactive floor and the only theremin bollards in the United States.

Another great advantage in our region is our abundance of public facilities. Fairfax County has an excellent public school system. Every day of the week, there are activities and educational programs at both Chantilly and Centreville Regional Libraries. You can learn about new technologies, such as 3-D printers, borrow a thermal camera to check energy loss in your home or join a book discussion group. The Sully Senior Center is a great place for older adults to exercise, pursue a hobby, and engage with members of the community.

Fairfax County also has an exceptional park system. The Cub Run RECenter offers an indoor pool, nature program, and a gym.

EC Lawrence Park's 650 acres include: the Walney Visitor Center, athletic fields, trails, a picnic area, and an outdoor amphitheater. The Sully Historic Site, completed in 1799, was home to Northern Virginia's first Representative to Congress. Guided tours as well as programs and camps happen all year long. The Sully Woodland core properties comprise roughly 2,000 acres of open space park land in the district.

I hope you will find opportunities to get involved in your community. Sully District has representatives on 80-plus boards, authorities, and commissions. If you or someone you know would be interested in one of these positions, please contact my office to inquire about openings.

Furthermore, if you need any help with county services or any other issues, please feel welcome to contact my office any time via email at sully@fairfaxcounty.gov or by phone at 703-814-7100. We have two community rooms available at the Sully Governmental Center for free for Fairfax County residents to use. You can reserve our community rooms, and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sully.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2019-2020



Artist's rendition of the Sully District Community Center in Chantilly.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

At The Preserve at Westfields, new construction (at right) is going next to already-built homes.

What's on the Local Horizon Homes, shops, restaurants and more.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With several projects in the works, developers are planning to build more homes, restaurants and shops here. All those things added to what Centreville and Chantilly already have to offer make this area even more special for its residents. Then there's the traffic – but fixes are on the way for it, too. Here's a look at just some of the things on the local horizon:

Development Projects

Sully District Community Center

Fairfax County is building the Sully District Community Center on a 5-acre site at the intersection of Wall Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly. The roughly 34,000 square-foot building will serve as a multigenerational center for the



A large, residential and retail project, Commonwealth Place at Westfields is being built along Newbrook Drive.

surrounding communities, so it's geared for residents of Chantilly, Centreville and Oak Hill. It will also be the new and permanent home of the Sully Senior Center and will include a healthcare component, as well. The community center will offer a broad array of services, programs and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Estimated cost is more than \$20 million, and the project is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Planned are three multipurpose rooms for programs both day and evening, plus an arts-and-crafts room, game room, exercise room, offices, kitchen and pantry. The facility will also feature a gym with two basketball courts. There'll be programs for youth after school and during the summer. And the center will provide a meeting place for groups and organizations, too.

Preserve at Westfields

Some 50 acres of formerly-vacant land along Route 28 and Stonecroft and SEE LOCAL HORIZON, PAGE 4



Walking trails are on both side of this lake at The Preserve at Westfields.



The Lazy Dog Café is under construction in The Field at Commonwealth shopping center.

What's on the Local Horizon

FROM PAGE 3

Westfields boulevards in Chantilly are undergoing a transformation. Called The Preserve at Westfields, this spot will eventually contain 155 townhouses, 650 apartments, plus retail and other amenities.

Fairfax County approved a rezoning for that site and also amended its Comprehensive Plan for that area so that high-density, residential uses may be built there. Akridge owns the land and is building the apartment and retail components; Craftmark Homes and Van Metre are constructing the townhouses.

Included is an amenity area with walking paths, a pavilion/performing and gathering area, plus a lake that wasn't previously accessible. Proffer highlights included almost \$6 million in recreation improvements and more than \$5.5 million in road improvements. Construction has been underway for quite some time, so many sections of homes are already completed, and residents have moved in.

The Field at Commonwealth

The Field at Commonwealth is along Westfields Boulevard in Chantilly, across Route 28 and just northeast of the Akridge site.

This popular, new shopping center opened last year inside the Newbrook Drive loop road and is part of a commercial complex including shops and restaurants.

The Wegmans grocery store is already there and has been joined by a variety of restaurants, a yoga studio and health-oriented businesses.

Now, workmen are busily building the Lazy Dog Cafe across from pizza place Mellow Mushroom.



Artist's rendition of the Bull Run Farm Brewery in Centreville.

The new restaurant is a casual-dining concept that serves hand-crafted, American food highlighting seasonal ingredients.

Commonwealth Place

Commonwealth Place at Westfields is a project of developer Regency Centers and involves a parcel of land across the street from the Chantilly Wegmans, along Newbrook Drive. An amended rezoning enables it to have both residential and retail uses.

To be built are 550,000 square feet of residential uses, including 120 single-family, attached homes and 112 multifamily units – stacked townhouses – for 232 homes total. The developer also

proposes constructing 100,000 square feet of retail/movie theater/shopping center uses there.

Bull Run Farm Brewery

The Winery at Bull Run has proved so successful that owner Jon Hickox now wants to operate a farm brewery.

His property is adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park, off Route 29 in Centreville. He wants to build two, historic-looking and adjoining buildings meshing with the landscape. But his plan requires two, particular permits from the county.

Residents of the nearby Stonebridge Chase neighborhood don't object to the brewery, but they are concerned about how the

access road leading to it will affect their neighborhood. They're also worried about the potentially large volume of traffic the winery could place onto Bull Run Post Office Road.

"We envision an authentic, farm brewery with beer using our own, homegrown hops, while not harming the beautiful mountain vistas," said Hickox.

He said some 80 percent of the beer would be made in an offsite, industrial area, with just some smaller-batch, specialty beers brewed onsite.

The matter goes before both the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals in September, before heading to the Board of Supervisors, which will have the final say.

SEE TRANSPORTATION, PAGE 10



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



Route 29 will be widened from four to six lanes between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road.

Chantilly
CONNECTION

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local and regional fairs and festivals, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead

of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

Back row, from left: Clay Kramer, Tisha Kramer, Mrs. Hagy (teacher); front row, from left: Chloe Kramer, first grade, Cali Kramer, grade 5, and Sammy Hagy.

It's Back to Lees Corner Elementary Cheerfully into a new school year.



Sisters Lindy, grade 5, and Asela, grade 2, are excited to start the new school year at Lees Corner Elementary on Aug. 26.



The Siams from left: Ali, Ava, Kyse, and Ayah. All are starting second grade.



From left: Owen Sebumia, grade 3, and his brother Griffin Sebumia, grade 5.



Dasha Blanco, grade 5, helped students arrive safely to Lees Corner Elementary.



Danica and Alyssa arrive at Lees Corner Elementary on the first day of school.



Principal Varonica Sloan welcomes back fifth grader Elhan on the first day of school at Lees Corner Elementary on Aug. 26.

NEWCOMERS

Where to Give Locally

List of Nonprofits in Fairfax County

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.
Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.
- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthervna@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50

- percent. second-story.org.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org/
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ **Britepaths**, Guiding families to a brighter future. For 35 years, Britepaths, formerly Our Daily Bread, has been developing sustainable solutions to stabilize low-income working families, build resilience through financial literacy and mentoring, and provide seasonal supports. "Give Instead Gala" is Sept. 26. 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030; 703-273-8829 Email info@britepaths.org
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org



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Walk to End Alzheimer's

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

September 2019

MONDAY/SEPT. 2

Herndon Labor Day Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Great music, a craft show, food, 12 wineries and micro-brews and culinary demonstrations. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/labor-day-festival for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 7-8

Burke Centre Festival. 9:30 am-5 pm at Burke Centre Conservancy
6060 Burke Centre Parkway Burke. Festival includes an Arts & Craft Fair, festival food vendors, amusement rides, pony rides, musical entertainment provided by local and nationally recognized performers, nature shows, after-hours Wine Garden. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com/sub_category_list.asp?category=19&title=Burke+Centre+Festival for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Dulles Day Plane Pull. At Dulles International Airport, Dulles. The 2019 Dulles Day Family Festival & Plane Pull is a full day of excitement with airplane and auto exhibits, the children's zone and bus pull, varied displays and activities, vendors, food and entertainment. Visit www.planepull.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. The Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates all the entertainment, dress, food, and cultural treasures from all over the world that are all here in Reston. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/reston-multicultural-festival for more.

October 2019

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 10-12

Fairfax's Fall for the Book Festival. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy literature and hear authors give readings at the Fall for the Book Festival. Visit www.fallforthebook.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Taste of Annandale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tom Davis Drive in central Annandale, between Columbia Pike and John Marr Drive. The fifth annual Taste of Annandale will showcase local restaurants during a daylong family-friendly celebration aimed at building community spirit, engaging young people, and promoting local businesses. Other activities include a 5K; multicultural music, dance, and other live entertainment; a chili cook-off; and much more. Visit tasteofannandale.com for more

THURSDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 24-28

Washington West Film Festival. Screening events in Reston, Arlington and other local areas. For tickets and schedule visit wwfilmfest.com.

November 2019

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston. Holiday parade with tree lighting, sing along, and more. Visit www.fxva.com/event/reston-holiday-parade-tree-lighting-sing-along-%26-more/22348/ for more.

December 2019

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Great Falls Celebration of Lights at Village Field. 3:45-6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with a Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal music. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights/ for more info.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The whirl and twirl of rides by Cole Shows Amusement Company attracted crowds during the Fairfax County 71st 4-H Fair and Carnival held at Frying Pan Park in Herndon.

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival

Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. “No Horn” hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. In August at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Living Saviour's Holiday Bazaar at 5500 Ox Road Fairfax Station. Event is 9: a.m-3 p.m. This is a family event with free admission. Shop a variety of vendors including small business and homemade arts and crafts. There will also be a Silent Auction with proceeds benefiting local hypothermia shelters this winter. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/living-saviors-third-annual-holiday-bazaar-tickets-64259195985?aff=ebdssbdestsearch for more.

April 2020

APRIL 18-25

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020

Great Falls Artfest on the Green. On the Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show and Sale under the big tent and a few little tents, too. This annual event is a show and sale highlighting Great Falls Studios members both at Great Falls Grange & Schoolhouse and in the working studios in Great Falls Village Centre. Visit www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/
Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Country Club. 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support three Great Falls elementary schools. Opportunities for sponsorships and volunteering are available. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 28-31

Herndon Festival 2020. Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring St., Herndon. Four day outdoor festival with three entertainment stages, two fireworks displays, Kid's Alley with children's art area, arts and craft show and more. All ages. Visit www.herndonfestival.net for more.

THURSDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Take a Break Concert Series. 7-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza W, Reston. On Thursdays, take a break with this outdoor concert series. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com/take-a-break for a weekly lineup.

FRIDAYS/MAY-AUGUST

Herndon Friday Night Live! 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. Visit herndonrocks.com/schedule.php for more.

June 2020

Springfield Days. South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is a community-wide celebration that includes a 5K run, “Pet Fest” and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Featured during Springfield Days, witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink's shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day with food, musical entertainment and more. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com for more.

Lake Anne Chalk on the Water Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Chalk on the Water is a two-day street-painting festival where participants will create street art. Festival goers can purchase a “plot” of brick space on the plaza and paint to their hearts delight whatever flows from their imagination. Visit www.chalkonthewater.com.

Taste of Reston. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Carnival games and rides with a family fun zone. Visit www.restontaste.com for more.

Love Your Body Yoga Festival. Yoga studios and wellness centers of Northern Virginia will be offering classes, services, and information on ways to care for your body, along with live entertainment and activities for children. Donations to participate in classes benefit

Cornerstones. Presented by Beloved Yoga. www.belovedyoga.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

JUNE-AUGUST

Reston Concerts on the Town. Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy live music in the Pavilion Saturday nights. Free. Rain or shine. Presented by Reston Town Center, Boston Properties, and Reston Town Center Association. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. 11900 Market Street, Reston. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. Sundays, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of free, live music! 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/.

Arts in the Parks. Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Performance venues include Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Mason District Park Amphitheater, and Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/arts-in-the-parks for more.

July 2020

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july for more.

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 5K Walk Run, Blood Drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/4th-of-july-celebration-parade/

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration. In the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration

Obon Festival. Highlighting Japanese culture at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Visit www.ekoji.org for more.

JULY-AUGUST

Braddock Nights Concert Series. Fridays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights for location and schedule.

August 2020

Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy old-fashioned family fun with carnival games, rides and tempting foods. Friday features the free Big Truck Night event from 5-7:30 p.m. “No Horn” hour is from 5-6 p.m. Tractor Pull at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Stop by the 4-H Fair throughout the weekend as exhibitors display their winning entries and get their farm animals ready to show. Try a turn at farm chores, watch stage entertainment and enjoy horse and livestock shows. Thursday and Friday – free parking and discount tickets for unlimited rides. Admission to the 4-H Fair and Carnival is free; \$10 per car parking fee on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair for details.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us.

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.

Chantilly Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3:30-7 p.m., through Nov. 11 in the parking lot at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The farmers market is a family-friendly weekly event where everyone can access local foods around, and build connections with local farmers, small business owners, and their neighbors. Farmers and vendors bring locally raised fruits, vegetables, breads and baked goods, meats and eggs, local honey, wine, soaps, prepared foods, and more each week. Free admission. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/chantilly for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

4K Fun Run: Hope Against Cervical Cancer. 10 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. This is a 4K fun run being held to spread awareness and promote self testing for cervical cancer in underserved areas of the U.S. as well as across the globe. Runners will receive a race T-shirt and bottled water. Awards for 1st place and runners up will be given in adult and children categories. Adults, \$20; 13 and under, \$15. Visit www.servicebeyondborders.org for more.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/SEPT. 1-2

HO and LEGO Model Trains Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew will have a special HO Model Train Show as well as a custom LEGO Model Train show by Monty Smith over the Labor Day weekend. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Fellowship Tea. 2-4 p.m. in Centreville Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall, 15100 Lee Highway, Centreville. Western Fairfax Christian Ministries will hold a Fellowship Tea with a three-course, gourmet spread and a program called "Why Girlfriends are Important." Raffle tickets available for purchase. Women of all ages are welcome. \$15/person or \$25 for two. Register at donatenow.networkforgood.org/wfcmtea. To volunteer to be a table host or for more information, contact Jennie Bush at jbush@wfcma.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Early Railroad Tools Exhibit. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a special exhibit of early railroad tools. Come learn how these tools were used to build and maintain railroads in the 19th century. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 13-14

Kids Wish Kids Good Night. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put a new twist on the bedtime routine by letting children wish a good night to the animals at Frying Pan Farm Park. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour and learn how farm animals settle down for the night. For



LEGO model train displays by Monty Smith.

HO and LEGO Model Trains Show

The Potomac Module Crew will have a special HO Model Train Show as well as a custom LEGO Model Train show by Monty Smith over the Labor Day weekend. Sunday-Monday, Sept. 1-2, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Bichon Bash

A fun-filled day of frolic to celebrate Bichons Frises and their humans. Featuring vendors and veterinary professionals. Funds raised help provide foster and vet care for Bichons that come into rescue. Saturday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Rain or shine. \$20. Call 717-324-9076 or visit www.bichonbash.org/.



participants age 3-adult. \$10 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 15

Bichon Bash. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. A fun-filled day of frolic to celebrate Bichons Frises and their humans. Featuring vendors and veterinary professionals. Funds raised help provide foster and vet care for Bichons that come into rescue. Rain or shine. \$20. Call 717-324-9076 or visit www.bichonbash.org/.

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

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 20-21

Kids Wish Kids Good Night. 7-8 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put a new twist on the bedtime routine by letting children wish a good night to the animals at Frying Pan Farm Park. Bring a flashlight or lantern for this twilight tour and learn how farm animals settle down for the night. For participants age 3-adult. \$10 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Dress for the weather. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 20-22

Capital Home Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Brett Tutor, the carpenter on TLC's Trading Spaces, will headline with more than 250 companies exhibiting and showcasing the latest in home remodeling, renovation, décor and redesign. Visit www.capitalhomeshow.com for tickets.

beverages will add to the fun. Clifton Day is the only day of the year when the train stops in the town. Admission is free. Parking starts at \$5 per car. Call 703-968-0740 or visit www.cliftonday.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 2

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.

ONGOING

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

History Volunteers Needed. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

LIBRARY FUN

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Transportation Projects

FROM PAGE 4

Route 28 Widening

Rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville can be pretty, slow going. But a multimillion-dollar widening project should improve things considerably. It won't become reality until 2023, but plans are well underway toward making that happen.

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. This Fairfax County project is being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

The whole shebang is estimated to cost \$76,625,000 and, as of now, it's completely funded from a variety of sources. The county hopes to have a contract signed with the design-builder by January-February of next year. And at the 60-percent plans stage, the design-builder will hold a public hearing before construction starts, to explain all the details to the community.

Route 29 Widening

During the afternoon rush hours, Route 29 between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road is 1.5 miles of painfully slow, bumper-to-bumper traffic. That's when residents are heading home to Centreville, or points west, trying to avoid I-66 west's gridlock at the same time.

There's also a bottleneck there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But VDOT is riding to the rescue with a plan to widen that stretch of Route 29 from four to six lanes.

The goal is to reduce congestion, while improving safety, operations and access.

The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange.

Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

There'll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow Roads, Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckleys Gate and Summit drives.

Estimated project cost is \$85.9 million, with \$19 million of that amount yet to be funded. Right-of-way acquisition – including meetings with individual property owners – is expected to begin in early 2020. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2022 and take approximately two-and-a-half years.

COMMENTARY

Preventing Suicide

Being there to take the call.

BY WENDY GRADISON
CEO, PRS

More people are calling, texting and chatting and that's good news. With greater emphasis on mental health, we are seeing an increase in the number of people reaching out for help to our local suicide prevention hotline. This is a trend that's also occurring nationwide.

While it's great that more people are seeking help, the issue is that the infrastructure and funding to support it are having a hard time keeping up with the growing demand. In fact, PRS recently received grants to serve as a national back-up center and core chat center to expand services in support of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network (Lifeline) to help address longer wait times nationwide as queues pile up for the hotline and chatline. Some of these calls and chats now get rerouted to PRS.

Prior to the recent expansion, PRS received a monthly average of 4,500 crisis calls through the Lifeline and local crisis number primarily from Northern Virginia. With the addition of the national hotline back-up center and chatline services, our call volume has more than doubled, and we expect the chatline to generate over 20,000 chats this year.

This is the reality as we approach September's Suicide Prevention Month. For the 5th year, we are hosting the [#CallTextLive Campaign](https://prsinc.org/calltextlive/), in partnership with Connection Newspapers. The campaign engages the community by providing activities to create awareness about preventing suicide and calling the PRS CrisisLink Hotline at (800) 273-TALK [8255] and the textline by texting "CONNECT" to 85511 to receive support.

#CallTextLive uses social media, activities and events to drive conversation and reduce stigma. By visiting PRS' website at www.prsinc.org/calltextlive, people can discover how to participate in the [#CallTextLive Campaign](https://prsinc.org/calltextlive/), which includes Re-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gradison

source Mondays, a Facebook Live educational session, Selfie Day, and Fact Fridays.

Social media is used to engage people in sharing stories and photos on PRS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the [#CallTextLive](https://prsinc.org/calltextlive/) hashtag in hopes of making it easier for people to talk about suicide.

The campaign is critically important since suicide claims the lives of more than 47,000 people annually and is the 10th leading cause of death nationwide and second leading cause for people aged 10-34. In fact, more than twice as many people die by suicide than homicide.

As we work to increase the number of individuals seeking help, we recognize that increasing our capacity to take these calls, texts and chats is essential.

We handle the national calls through federal grants, but the work we do to serve our Northern Virginia community is supported through local funding sources and the generosity of individuals like you. That's why the campaign encourages people to crowdsource to support the PRS CrisisLink center.

Volunteering to cover a weekly shift on the hotline or chatline, donating to support the overall operating expenses of this life-saving work or sharing our information across social media saves lives in our communities.

Crisis intervention and suicide prevention services work. For every death, 278 people manage to move past thoughts of suicide and survive. Join PRS this September as we encourage our community to make the call, send the text and live through their thoughts of suicide.

ROUNDUPS

Update Driver's License to REAL ID

On Saturday, Sept. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., people may update their driver's licenses with a REAL ID card at a DMV 2 Go event outside the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. It's a great way to skip the long, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) lines and get a REAL ID before they're required in airports.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, Virginians will need a

REAL ID compliant driver's license or ID card, or another federally approved form of identification (such as a U.S. passport or some military IDs) to board domestic flights or enter secure, federal facilities.

All applicants for a REAL ID compliant credential must apply in person and pay a \$10 surcharge, in addition to the standard renewal or replacement fees.

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.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 3

Car Seat Safety Check. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sully district police station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. Fairfax

County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

ESL Class Registration. 7 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax or 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Three levels: beginning, intermediate, advanced. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 17-Nov. 21. All are welcome. Registration fee, \$15; text book, \$25. Visit www.lordoflifeva.org or call 703-323-9500.

Family Caregiver Telephone

Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone. This month's topic is an open discussion on advance care planning and end of life decisions. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

American Legion Meeting. 7:30-9 p.m. at Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. American Legion Post 1995 Centreville and its Auxiliary Unit meet separately the second Tuesday of each month. All veterans and spouses interested learning more about how the Legion supports veterans and impacts the Centreville-

Chantilly communities are welcome to attend. Free. Contact Steve Hunter at geoshunter@aol.com or 703-314-3795.

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

Assistance League Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, an all volunteer organization, invites community members to attend the first Regular Monthly Meeting of the new school year. This meeting will feature an overview of programs and associated volunteer opportunities, including Weekend Food for Kids and Literacy for Kids. Free. Email VPmembership@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Car Seat Safety Check. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sully district police station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. In preparation for inspection, install the seat using the instructions that came with the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

car seat.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30-OCT. 23

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. Emphasis on hands-on skill development and Fairfax County protocols and procedures. Instructor will provide syllabus with class schedule at first session. This training does not require any special physical strength or agility. Visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/184991 to register.

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.

MONDAY/OCT. 7

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this 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.

MONDAY/NOV. 4

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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. on Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

DONATIONS

The **Student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of old cellphones so that troops can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14215E Centreville Square, Centreville.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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Side-Splitting But Not Very Funny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The most recent near-having-to-think-about-death experience I wrote about last week ("Barbosoul") was quite a shock to my system.

In spite of all the ups and downs and all-arounds I've experienced over the past 10 and a half not-fun-filled cancer years, I had never gone emotionally to the place I went to last week. Certainly I've thought about death and dying before: heck, I'm a cancer patient having been given a "terminal" diagnosis.

Nevertheless, I had never really put two and two together to equal four. It had always equaled three and a half, if you know what I mean? (Maybe you don't. Sometimes I'm not sure what I mean.) But last week's column was different. I went there.

It's not as if I haven't experienced pain before. I have. Most notably in the area of my lungs (the mediastinum) where my non-small-cell-lung-cancer-stage-IV tumors take up primary residence. Sometimes, the pain I felt was that of the tumors growing. Other times, the pain was that of scar tissue which had grown over tumors.

Any of which I would never know until my oncologist discussed with Team Lourie the radiologist's report from the preceding CT scan. Moreover, these assessments were never given with any kind of arithmetical-type certainty. Still, if it could have been worse, I was happy and if it could have been better, I was hopeful. Never too high and never too low.

As you regular readers know, I roll with the punches, wherever they land.

For the past week, those punches (pain) were in the identical (so far as I knew) place where my non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV symptoms first manifested in late December 2008. As such, I was rolling like I had never rolled before - and without any kind of mat to soften the fall.

Aside from experiencing headaches/pain in my head (which I haven't), which might indicate progression (in 30 percent of lung cancer patients the cancer moves to the brain), a recurrence in the same area as 10 and a half years ago likewise scares out the daylight living inside of me.

And, just like when a little knowledge in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing, so too does zero knowledge in the right hands (mine) become a dangerous thing. Why else would I be experiencing pain in my left side by my rib cage if it wasn't the cancer, only worse? But that wasn't the case.

As those of you who read to the end of last week's column know, I have survived to fight another day, or I should say, fight another two months because that's when my next CT scan is scheduled. At present, that's my cycle: bi-weekly immunotherapy followed by bi-monthly scans of my neck down to my lower abdomen, followed by an office visit with my oncologist to discuss the findings and plan for the immediate future.

Might that be palliative care? Apparently, if the inference/suggestion made by my oncologist in our last face-to-face meeting had any basis in fact? I suppose that's the problem with inferences/suggestions made in the medical "whirled."

I'm sure there are facts and figures and years of research supporting recommendations upon which one's treatments/protocols are based. Moreover, they're unlikely "made up of whole cloth," to quote the late Washington Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke commenting on some football rumor I can't remember.

Nevertheless, it's not exactly a straight line from the oncologist's mouth to the patient's estate planner. It's more like a roller coaster - without the safety bar (I wish it were more like the merry-go-round, but it's not.). Often times, it's more like whack-a-mole.

Now that the pain and discomfort has subsided, I feel like I've dodged a bullet. It reminds me of my elementary school gym classes when we played a game called "Bombardment" where dodge balls were thrown across the gym from one half of the class at the other. As random as it was, it was only a matter of time until you couldn't dodge any more, and then you were out.

I realize that was only a game and this is life, but cancer has a way of intertwining fact and fiction with the past, present and future whether you like it or not.

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

Shopping Spree for Children in Homeless Shelters

Pride and positive interaction with law enforcement as students get needed gear.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The first day of school is a critical time in the lives of children. An opportunity to shop and choose new back-to-school clothes and shoes excited Yuri Duncan, 7, and Malachi Nealy, 10. On Wednesday, Aug. 21, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office took Yuri, Malachi and thirty-eight other children shopping for back-to-school items, but not before a complimentary pizza lunch by Paisano's Pizza.

These children live right now at the Katherine K. Hanley and Patrick Henry family shelters operated by Shelter House, and the Next Steps family shelter run by Facets.

Now in its 28th year, the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program allowed local shelter children the opportunity to select and purchase clothing they liked, suited to their individual personalities, while interacting in a positive experience with law enforcement. "Together, we truly are changing lives," said Joe Myer Executive Director and CEO of Shelter House.

"I'd like some Jojo shoes because I wear dresses," said Yuri Duncan as she and Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith, Field Training Officer, ate their pizza and got to know each other.

FOR MALACHI NEALY, it was all about being cool. "I'm looking for stylish, cool clothes in teal and light blue." Shiah Allen, 8, who sat with Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti said he wanted a hoodie with a 100 on it, and Noah Mathews, 10, knew exactly what clothing and shoes he wanted to get to dominate the game on the school courts. "I'd like themed t-shirts, shorts, and new Nike James LeBron shoes."

"I love the interaction between our kids and our Sheriff's deputies," said Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid. "These children are living in family shelters. Helping them prepare for the start of the school year with new clothes is something we can see and appreciate. Less obvious, but just as important, is the relationship building. We are law enforcement officers ... we are regular people who can tell jokes and stories. We want the children to engage with us today and in the future."

According to Sheriff Kincaid, since the program was not county-funded, the Office relied on contributions from individuals and corporate donations such as Target, Paisano's Pizza and new partner this year, Oracle in Reston.

"Each child is paired up with a Deputy Sheriff or civilian staff member and given \$250 gift cards so they can purchase items such as clothing, accessories, things that they need...on the first day and beyond, so they are able to walk in with a sense of pride and can focus on their studies."



Reservist, K. R. Gulich and Margo Reimers-Ray, Management Analyst II of Fairfax County Sheriff's Office assist a youth during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program at Target in Burke.



Shiah Allen, 8, gets to know his shopping partner, Fairfax County Sheriff's Deputy L. R. Favetti before they head out to Target in Burke for the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.

For many of the deputies, the event was a repeat performance. "I love helping out ... This is my third or fourth time," said Deputy Sheriff J.M. Smith as she sat coloring with Yuri Duncan and eating pizza. For Deputy L. R. Favetti, it was his first time volunteering, which momentarily concerned his shopping partner, Shiah Allen, 8. That is until Favetti added: "I have lots of nieces and nephews, so I know how to shop."

Sharon Bulova, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor John W. Cook (R-Braddock District) waited at Target for the children, Kincaid and the deputies to arrive. Before the children came,

Bulova said, "This is one of my favorite events of the year. It's heartwarming to see the interaction between the Sheriff's deputies and these children. It changes the children's opinion of law enforcement."

When the children arrived, Cook spoke to the group. "You just show our deputies what you need, and they will be happy to get it for you. ... School is really important. ... We want you ready to learn and have fun with your fellow classmates."

IN A FILMED INTERVIEW, Kincaid explained while Shop with the Sheriff pro-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Checkout time is show and tell for Yuri Duncan, 7. She holds up one of her back-to-school-purchases that Sheriff's Deputy J. M. Smith helped her choose during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.



Two cool dudes, Sergeant C. M. Loftis, Public Information Officer for Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and Christian Gatling don their shades as they go back to school shopping together at Target in Burke during the 2019 Shop with the Sheriff Program.

vided the tangible benefit of new clothes and shoes, it also provided intangible benefits. The experience gave the children a sense of control as they selected and excitedly tried on the clothing they picked out. The new clothes also gave the children a sense of pride, which would allow them to focus on their education. It also allowed positive interaction between deputies and the children.

"This is a great program, and I wish we could have it every single day. We love to interact and be the role models for the children," said Kincaid.