

Burke CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Burke Historical Society members J. Andrew Bennet Joshua Coffey, Cindy Bennett Huldah Coffey, and Jon Vrana dress up as the town's historical figures at the Burke Centre Festival.

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To Fairfax County

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SEPTEMBER 12-18, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Deer Management Archery Program Begins

The county's annual Deer Management Archery Program began Saturday, Sept. 7 and runs through Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

The archery program is conducted in dozens of parks and other locations throughout the county under Fairfax County Parks Department oversight and working closely with the Park Authority and NOVA Parks. Parks remain open to the public during this program.

The archery program began in 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population. The program aims to minimize safety and health hazards related to an overabundance of deer, including deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem.

The county's Deer Management Program was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Because of its proven track record of safety, archery is a preferred deer management method. Archery is a compatible use with residential areas and community parks,

allowing for deer population management in urban and suburban areas.

Since Virginia began tracking hunting injuries in 1959, no bystanders have been injured by an archer hunting deer any-

where in the commonwealth. Last year, 89 percent of the total deer harvests in our Deer Management Program were through the use of archery.

The county's Archery Program standards

require that all archers meet state hunter licensing, education and safety requirements and must pass qualifications to demonstrate skill and marksmanship, in addition to carrying program identification. Archers are also required to pass a criminal background check and complete additional training through the International Bowhunter Education Program to participate in the Deer Management Program.

Parks remain open to the public during the archery program and fluorescent orange signs are posted in parks where hunting is authorized. Harvest attempts will be accomplished from elevated tree stands; hunting from the ground level is prohibited in county parks. Tree stands must not be located closer than 100 feet from property lines or closer than 50 feet from established park trails.

Archers are approved to hunt at assigned sites Monday through Saturday during legal hunting hours, 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. No hunting is allowed on Sundays in county parks. Archers are not allowed on private property without permission by the owner or tenant.

For more information, visit the Fairfax County Deer Management Program.

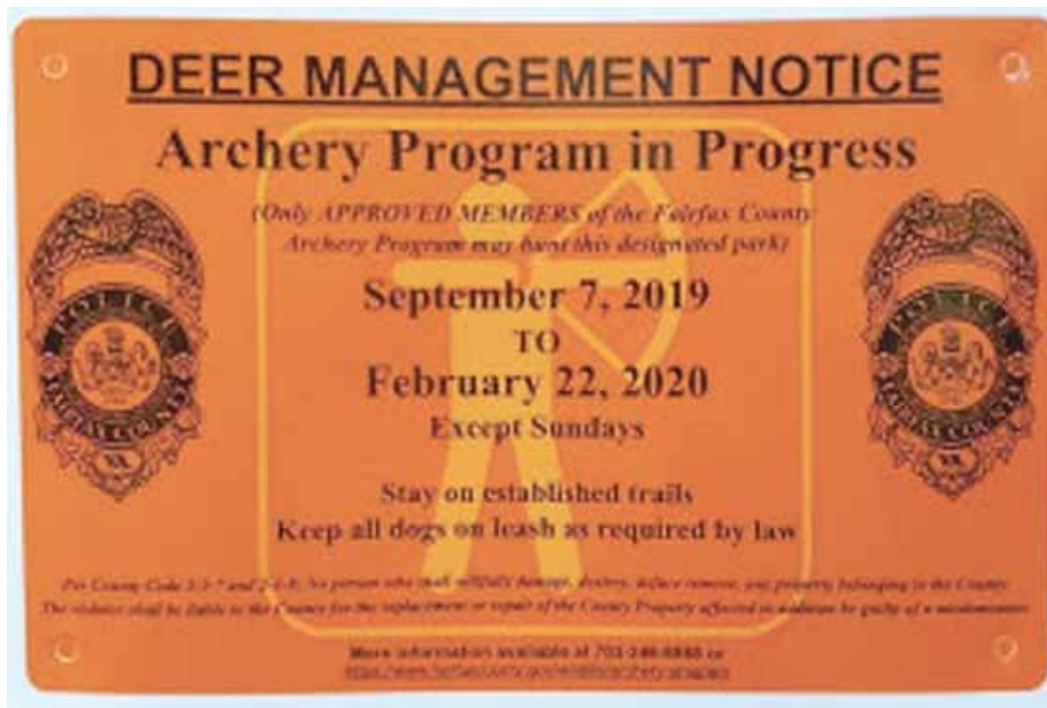


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

These signs are posted in archery program areas, at park entrances and trailheads.

3,000 Jobs Added to Local Economy

In the second quarter of 2019, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) worked with a diverse group of 35 businesses that announced the addition of nearly 3,000 jobs to the Fairfax County economy.

The companies represent a variety of industry sectors and run from A to Z: employment staffing company Aerotek to business process management software firm Zimpatica.

Aerotek, which bases its Fairfax County operations in the Fair Lakes area, announced it would create 413 more jobs in the county. Zimpatica, which is based in the Merrifield area, said it would add 10 jobs to the local economy.

Other notable announcements during the quarter:

- ❖ TekSystems, which specializes in information technology staffing services and bases local operations in the Merrifield area. It is adding 840 jobs.

- ❖ Inova Schar Cancer Institute, which opened in May in Merrifield is adding 500 jobs.

- ❖ EY, the multinational provider of advisory, assurance, tax and transaction services is adding 481 jobs based out of the Tysons office.

- ❖ OBXtek, a service-disabled

veteran-owned business that provides technical and logistical services to government agencies is adding 100 jobs based out of the Tysons office.

- ❖ Caboose Brewing Company, which opened Caboose Commons in the Mosaic District of Merrifield created 95 jobs.

- ❖ Furnace Record Pressing, which manufactures vinyl records in the Alexandria area of the county – one of just a handful of such operations in the nation – is adding 26 jobs.

Zach Sells, director of business operations (Northern Virginia and Winchester professional and industrial) for Aerotek, said the company continues to expand here because of the proximity to other growing companies and the talent they need.

“We were very intentional in having an established presence in Fairfax County to capitalize on the growing job market here,” said Sells.

Victor Hoskins, president and CEO of the FCEDA, noted the range of industries represented by the companies that announced expansions during the quarter.

“We want to continue to diversify the economy in order to withstand the next recession,” Hoskins

said. “Having companies in everything from IT to life sciences to manufacturing creating thousands of jobs will help us attract and retain a broad range of talent and continue to strengthen our economic base.”

Business growth and innovation helps Fairfax County fund the nation's top-rated school system and other public services that contribute to the quality of life of residents.

Fairfax County offers businesses a state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure, access to global markets through Washington Dulles International Airport, a vibrant investment capital community and a highly skilled, well-educated workforce.

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority offers site location and business development assistance, and connections with county and state government agencies, to help companies locate and expand in Fairfax County. In addition to its headquarters in Tysons, Fairfax County's largest business district, the FCEDA maintains business investment offices in six important global business centers: Bangalore/Mumbai, Berlin, London, Los Angeles, Seoul and Tel Aviv.

CRIME REPORT

West Springfield District Police Station reported the following incidents last week:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10

INDECENT EXPOSURE: 6200 block of Rolling Road, 9/9/19, 3:15 p.m. The victim was sitting at the tables in front of a store when a man exposed himself. He was described as a white man in his 40s, short red hair, 6'02", 170 pounds.

LARCENIES: 4500 block of John Tyler Court, property from residence

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

BURGLARY OF AN OCCUPIED DWELLING: 9500 block of 3rd Place, 9/8/19, 5:11 p.m. Two men and a woman knocked on the victim's door. One of the suspects distracted the victim as the other two entered the home and stole property. Two of the suspects were described as Hispanic or Middle Eastern men, 5'7" to 5'11", 35 to 50-years-old and 200 to 250 pounds.

BURGLARY: 6600 block of Summer Grape Court, 9/6/19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Someone entered a home and stole property.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: Commons Drive/Rectory Lane, 9/7/19, 1 a.m. The victim was walking home when he was approached by two men who assaulted him and demanded his personal items. The victim ran away without relinquishing anything. The suspects were described as Hispanic men.

LARCENIES: 8600 block of Bent Arrow Court, gun from residence

6000 block of Burke Centre Parkway, merchandise from business
8900 block of Burke Lake Road, merchandise from business
7900 block of Larrick Court, cash and driver's license from vehicle

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

LARCENIES: 5700 block of Burke Centre Parkway, merchandise from business

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5

STOLEN VEHICLES: 4800 block of Gainsborough Drive, 2007 Cadillac Escalade

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

LARCENIES: 10200 block of Braddock Road, ladder from residence
8900 block of Burke Lake Road, merchandise from business
4600 block of John Tyler Court, gun from vehicle
9000 block of Power House Road, equipment from construction site

STOLEN VEHICLES: 4900 block of Sauquoit Lane, 2007 Volkswagen Rabbit

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

BURGLARY/STOLEN AUTO: 10000 Coffey Woods Road (Knollwood Community Church), 9/2/19, 2 p.m. to 9/3/19, 9 a.m. Someone broke into the church and stole several keys along with a Ford van that was parked outside.

LARCENIES: 8000 block of Braddock Road, beer from business



Festival goers soak in the sun-filled day full of games, foods, and hand-made goods at the annual Burke Centre Festival.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALBARRACIN/THE CONNECTION

Festival goers enjoy the bounce houses.

Finding Community at Burke Centre Festival

Burke residents enjoy the last breath of summer at the activity-filled festival.

BY JENNIFER ALBARRACIN
THE CONNECTION

Each year about 8,000 -10,000 visitors attend the annual Burke Centre Festival. This past weekend was no exception, as families arrived with kids of all ages, basking in the last summer rays of the season. The 42nd Festival was held from Sept. 7-8, 2019 at the Conservancy

Festival Grounds.

The festival included 123 booths from 18 food vendors, 63 arts and crafts exhibitors, 25 outreach booths, Fairfax County Police and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue displays. Other attractions included amusement rides, pony rides, live bands, dance performances, midway style games, a wine garden, and an interactive wildlife show from the Hidden Pond Nature Center.



Dancers of The Virginia Ballet Dance Company perform to the track 'Bad Guy' by 17-year-old rising pop star Billie Eilish at the 2019 Burke Centre Festival.



Children enjoying carnival rides at Burke Centre Festival.



Barbara Nowak, a ceramic artist, holding one of her pieces she was selling at the Burke Centre Festival.



Joy & Billy Davis, owners of Day Three Bath & Body pictured in front of their fresh, natural, and handmade products.



Hidden Pond Nature Center volunteers Addie Craghead, Charlotte McClurkeh, and Lena Mahyoub holding an interactive petting circle of the turtle for festival goers.

Purpose of a Corporation

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



While most of my columns are about issues that need resolution and challenges that state government must meet, a column focused on what others are doing to improve life in our communities is appropriate from time to time. If we allow ourselves to relax for a few moments to see and marvel in some good news, it does not mean that we are any less committed to improving the world or that we will lose our momentum in trying to do so. There are many more stories of progress that I hope to share in this short space in the future, but an event last month deserves our immediate attention.

The Business Roundtable made up of 181 CEO's of America's biggest companies issued a new "Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation" last month that makes a dramatic shift from past statements that emphasized shareholder primacy to a "fundamental commitment to all of our stakeholders." The broadened purpose is explained to include delivering value to custom-

ers, investing in employees, dealing ethically and fairly with suppliers, and supporting communities in which they are located. (<https://opportunity.businessroundtable.org>)

Socially responsible actions taken voluntarily on the part of many companies may have spurred the new Business Roundtable statement, but the hope is that other corporations will follow with actions that are as positive for their workers and the communities they serve as they are for the bottom line. As the Roundtable statement explained, "investing in our employees...starts with compensating them fairly and providing important benefits."

Maybe there will be a future where my bill to increase the paltry \$7.25 an hour minimum wage in Virginia will be supported by local Chambers of Commerce instead of outright opposition they have expressed in the past. Concern for workers at the minimum should be that they are paid a wage on which they can live.

The Roundtable statement acknowledged that "while each of our individual companies serves its own corporate purpose, we share a fundamental commitment to all of our stakeholders." Among the stakeholders are the communities in which businesses are located to

which the Roundtable members expressed that "we respect the people in our communities and protect the environment by embracing sustainable practices across our businesses." The consumer continues to have the choice of buying products that are made in a sustainable way and to refuse to purchase those that are not.

The auto manufacturers who made an agreement with the state of California to follow strict emission standards for automobiles regardless of the irresponsible action by the federal government to lower standards are to be applauded and supported by other states in the court suit. How ironic would it be if the courts decided that companies could not gain a competitive advantage by being more environmentally responsible.

The Business Roundtable Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation concludes that "each of our stakeholders is essential. We commit to deliver value to all of them, for the future success of our companies, our communities and our country." Those same "stakeholders" are referred to in government as "constituencies." When the common goals of business and society as reflected through its government are recognized, success will be realized by stakeholders and constituencies!

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, which includes Resource 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 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.

LETTERS

Happy to Be Back to School

To The Editor:

I am super excited to go back to school again and meet my friends and teachers. I have lots of fun things to share with my friend. The best things about the new school year is buying new clothes, shoes, and school supplies. It is so much

fun. Even though I am going to miss sleeping in late, going to the beach, riding my bike, and having fun with my friends, as an American Muslim girl I know that the importance of education is not only a requirement of my country but also my faith. The Holy Quran

states, "Oh my Lord increase my knowledge" (20:115). Now that I am going to be a fourth grader, I am ready to learn new things to increase my knowledge and hope my fellow classmates do too.

Tamseela Mumtaz
Chantilly

Write

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NEWS

Fall Comes Early to Fairfax County

Locals already raking leaves and sweeping sidewalks.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Rev. Dr. Kay Rodgers of Reston finds herself doing something in mid-August she doesn't do until fall.

Sweep the red berries that fell onto the sidewalk from her Japanese dogwood tree.

Although she cannot put her finger on it, Rodgers and other Northern Virginia residents realize something is unusual as they grab their rakes and brooms in the summertime to clear leaves and berries from their yards, sidewalks, driveways and storm water drains.

A woman sweeping leaves from the sidewalk of her townhouse community near the Fairfax County Government Center on a Wednesday evening Aug. 7 admits it's uncommon for her to do this chore during summer and wonders why.

A woman in Centreville rakes the leaves from her yard on a Friday afternoon Sept. 6 off Little Rocky Run Circle.

EXPERTS say many factors contribute to the early defoliation of some area trees and it takes several years for these causes to take their cumulative toll.

In Fairfax County, Virginia Cooperative Extension agents have noticed a lot of white and red oak trees dying. Senior extension agent of horticulture, Adria C. Bordas, says the factors are explained in a report by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

"Oak Decline in Virginia," published within the past two years by forest health manager Lori Chamberlin, lumps the causes into three categories — predisposing, inciting and contributing factors.

Predisposing factors include site condition: poor soil, topography and stocking density, which weaken the tree over time. "Advanced tree age and prolonged periods of drought are also common predisposing factors in Virginia," Chamberlin explains in her paper.

Inciting factors are short-term incidents that rarely kill the tree but add to its decline. Frost, drought and defoliating insects fall into this category. It can take an oak tree up to 10 years to respond to any of these.

Although Northern Virginia has received considerable rain in the past two consecu-



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Rev. Dr. Kay Rodgers of Reston sweeps fruit that has dropped from her Japanese dogwood tree, so her neighbors and their pets don't step on the red berries and track them into their townhomes. Although she completes this ordinary chore each fall, she finds it unusual her tree drops its fruit in mid-August.

tive spring seasons, Bordas notes July was the hottest month on record — as do numerous other news reports — and "we are in drought conditions now."

Accuweather.com logged 99 degrees Fahrenheit for the Washington, D.C., region on Sunday, July 21 — the hottest day of the year for this area.

"Finally, contributing factors are secondary insects or diseases that ultimately lead to tree mortality," Chamberlin says in her report. "These are the agents that finally 'do the tree in' and are often blamed for the death of the tree when in fact they are just the last nail in the coffin."

Fungus, wood borers and root disease are the main culprits in this category of oak tree decline.

Although fall webworms are noticeable defoliators on the tips of numerous tree limbs throughout Northern Virginia, Bordas points out these invasive insects are a common sight this time of year and not the reason some leaves start falling in August.

SEE FALL, PAGE 9

KING STREET

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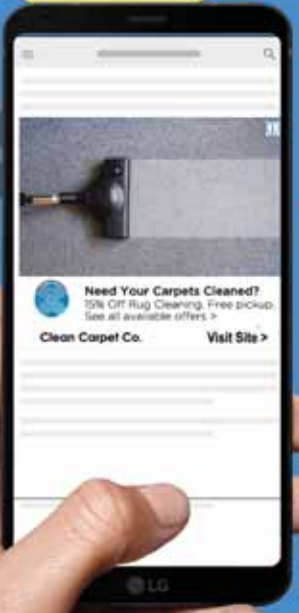
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HomeLifeStyle

By combining a first level floorplan reconfiguration with a partial second floor “pop-up,” Glickman Design Build generated almost 800 square feet of new living space for a three generation family of five. The top level, now private quarters for the twin boys, includes two bedrooms, a 71 square foot work station alcove, and a loft devoted to video games and entertainment.



‘Pop-up’ Accommodates Growing Family Needs

Solution combines first level floorplan reconfiguration with attic conversion to create budget-friendly increase in living space.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

Brian and Jee Coyle, two professionals in their early forties, had occupied their two-level 1,400-square-foot Colonial in McLean for over a decade. The busy household included Jee’s mother, Penvadee (65), and twin sons—Ty and Miles (10), who were fast-approaching the stage when more independence and privacy is an emergent priority.

Living arrangements called for Brian and Jee sharing the ground-level master suite on the southwest rear corner of the house while the twins bunked in a single first floor bedroom, sharing a hall bath with a tub,

Penvadee’s suite was situated on the lower level where Brian also retained a small office. The close-knit family daily shared meals and lots of quality-time pursuits. But needed changes were anticipated.

Looking ahead, the Coyles recognized they would soon want more usable square footage. Thoughts of finding a larger house nearby didn’t last long since the family considered the circa 1960s brick-facing original something of a classic, and particularly appreciated the good local schools. Still, a remodeling solution that would allow each generation to have a level to themselves made practical sense.

By making over the existing house, the boys might pick up a bedroom each, plus a shared bath and spaces for study and entertainment.

Brian would gain a larger and more private office. Yet the quest for more additional square footage also seemed something of a “reach” since the existing floorplan was notably cramped, situated on a one third acre lot on a hill and offered few visible expansion options. Still, there were opportunities worth examination.

“An open attic with about six feet of headroom was accessible from a staircase in the dining room,” Brian said. “We could picture this as a potential new top level, but weren’t sure of the cost issues, which members of the family would live there or any of the design details.”

Taking the inquiry to the next step, Jee began investigating ideas on “Houzz,” a popular consumer web site. They noticed Glickman Design Build emerged in relation to a nearby makeover that proved to offer spot-on relevance to the Coyle’s goals.

“We had no idea how a new top level should be configured,” Brian said. “But Glickman’s advanced computer imaging technology (CADD systems) made it easy for us to not only model alternate floorplan configurations, but also to narrow-down our many finishwork choices.”

Better yet, the Coyles found that the feasibility study phase of Glickman’s agreement allowed them to closely examine a host of the technical issues while absorbing design fees into the building process.

“The contract permitted us to imagine a large range of options without adding cost,” the homeowner said. “We even considered relocating the master bedroom to the top floor, or bumping out the front. This freedom to explore every consideration was liberating.”

In the end, the attic was converted into a 776-square-foot suite designed primarily for the twins. Each son has a private bedroom. There’s a 78-square-foot master bath; a roomy work station and a spacious loft devoted to video games and entertainment.

Their former first floor bedroom has been converted into Brian’s 150-square-foot office. The now open first level plan is an improvement on all fronts.

“The whole first floor circulates much better” said Brian. “There’s more natural light throughout the primary living area, and it’s a much interactive floorplan. Great for the entire family.”

For Information: 703-832-8158 or 301-444-4663 or GlickmanDesignBuild.com



BEFORE: Situated at the top of a hill on a one third-acre lot, the Coyle’s 1,400 square foot circa 1960’s Colonial..

PRS | CrisisLink

**#CALL
TEXT
LIVE**

**SEPTEMBER IS
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
MONTH**

Suicide takes nearly 47,000 Americans each year. We all have a role in keeping our community suicide safer.

This September, join PRS CrisisLink and Connection Newspapers to learn how you can help save lives.

1-800-273-TALK
prsinc.org/calltextlive

NEWS

Sgt. Steve Brown, Sgt. Brian Hamilton, Sgt. Sean Merritt and Cpl. Robert Ronk of the Herndon Police Department accept three awards on behalf of the department: the Impaired Driving Award, the 2019 Commonwealth Award for the most outstanding traffic safety program in Virginia in 2018, and 1st Place in the 2019 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge for municipalities with 26-60 Officers.



PHOTO BY ERIN SCHRAD/VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Presented

Local police and special law enforcement agencies awarded for best traffic safety programs in the state.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Impaired driving, occupant protection and speed awareness impact the safety of Virginia roadways. The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) Law Enforcement Challenge is a traffic safety recognition program that recognizes agencies that excel in keeping their roadways safe. Last week, VACP announced multiple Northern Virginia police agencies recipients of the 2019 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge awards for the best traffic safety programs in the state in 2018. The Virginia law enforcement community consists of 125 city and county sheriff's offices, 242 police departments and seven state police divisions within 48 areas of the state according to the 2018 Virginia Highway Safety Plan, Annual Report Fiscal Year 2018 by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

According to the report, while a data comparison of Jan. 1 – Nov. 30: 2015 vs. 2018 revealed a 7 percent increase in Virginia fatalities, 689 to 737, there was a 12 percent decrease in serious injuries, 7430 to 6569, and an 8 percent decrease in unrestrained passenger vehicle occupant fatalities, 277 to 254 respectively.

VACP named the first, second and third place state winners during an awards luncheon that took place during its 94th Annual Training Conference on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the Hilton Norfolk. VACP also presented special awards for outstanding enforcement and education efforts in the areas of occupant protection, impaired driving, speed awareness, commercial motor vehicle safety, distracted driving, technology, bicycle/pedestrian safety, and motorcycle safety, as well as the Commonwealth Award for the Best Overall Traffic Safety Program in Virginia 2018, regardless of agency size or type and special awards.

LOCAL NORTHERN VIRGINIA WINNERS of the 2019 Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge were
Municipal Police:

- ❖ Herndon Police Department- First Place, Category 2: 26-60 Officers
- ❖ Arlington County Police Department-First Place, Category 5: 301-600 Officers
- ❖ Alexandria Police Department- Second Place, Category 5: 301-600 Officers
- ❖ Fairfax County Police Department- Second Place,

Category 6: 601 or More Officers
Special Law Enforcement:
❖ Metro Washington Airports Authority Police Department (MWAA)-First Place

VACP also recognized MWAA with the Distracted Driving Award and recognized Herndon Police Department with the two additional awards, the Commonwealth Award for the Best Overall Traffic Safety Program in Virginia and the Impaired Driving Award. Although representatives from most of the recognized agencies attended the awards luncheon, representatives of Fairfax County Police Department did not.

AWARDS were based on entries prepared by the participating agencies, which highlighted their traffic safety education and enforcement activities in occupant protection, impaired driving and speed over the past calendar year, according to VACP. Judges gave points to the agencies in six areas — problem identification, policies, planning, training of officers, public information and education, enforcement, and an evaluation of the outcomes of the agency's efforts.

The Herndon Police Department issued the statement: "We were both incredibly honored and surprised this year to receive three awards in the Virginia Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Challenge for traffic safety enforcement and education. We were notified in advance that we were awarded first place in our agency size category, but we had no idea HPD would receive the Commonwealth Award for the most outstanding traffic division statewide, regardless of size and also be recognized for our efforts in combating impaired driving. We could not be more proud of the efforts put forth by our officers who work very hard each day to keep our roadways and our citizens safe. Traffic and pedestrian safety will continue to be a focus for HPD as development and roadway improvements increase both in the Town of Herndon and around it."

The Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Awards program is supported by a grant from the Virginia Highway Safety Office. The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation is a statewide organization of federal, state and local police chiefs and law enforcement executives dedicated to improving the professionalism of police agencies in Virginia. The Association was founded in 1926 and has more than 600 members.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia. Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit carolboydleon.com/shir_halev for more.

Senior Olympics. Volunteers needed. 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 public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration for participants. Visit www.nvso.us.

Fall Art Classes. Sessions begin Saturday, Sept. 14 or Tuesday, Sept. 17 at the Woods Community Centre at 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Art lessons for 5-8 years, 8 years & up and teens/adults. Call the instructor Carol Zeitlin at 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com.

Art Exhibitions. Through Sept. 15, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. For the first time, the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association is sharing its gallery space with a group of student artists. The Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is a satellite gallery sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com/mosaic/ for more.

❖ "Make Your Mark" is part of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Associations' effort to provide exhibit opportunities for gifted artists in the community. In this show, each of the 13 students taking classes from TFAA artist and arts educator Marsha Staiger present one painting that represents their body of work.

❖ "Animal Kingdom" is the theme of the Torpedo Factory artists' exhibit and will showcase the best of what nature has to offer, including the wild and the tame.

(Im)Permanence Continued. Through Oct. 6 in the McGuireWoods Gallery, 2nd Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A solo exhibition featuring work by Cynthia Myron. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

VMFA: Futures. Through Oct. 6 in the McGuireWoods Gallery, 2nd Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. VMFA: Futures showcases artists joining the 2019-2020 Fellowship Program at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Comprised of a broad selection of humanizing works of ingenuity which live the art landscape through sculpture, videography, painting, photography and new media, VMFA: Futures highlights emerging talent but also explores commonalities amongst the artists' work. Featured artists include Soomin Ham, Rebecca Silberman, David Fransulich and Sarah Phillips. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

Juried Exhibition: Clay International. Through Oct. 6 in the Vulcan Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artist and Educator Peter Beasecker juried over 300 images to select 52 pieces of art which incorporate a contemporary spirit as well as a technical mastery of the material for 2019 Workhouse Clay International. Clay International represents the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural ceramic artworks being created throughout the country. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

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.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Farm fresh eggs, local honey, berries, fresh picked



Community Fair

Lorton Station Community Fair features dance performance, DJ music, fitness demos, facepainting, balloon characters and touch-a-truck. Meet and shop with local business owners. Sunday, Sept. 15, 2-5 p.m. at Lorton Station Town Center, 9000 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Free admission. Food and drink available for purchase. Call 757-897-5724 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/lorton-station-community-fair-tickets-66831626193.

Game Day and Scavenger Hunt

Play a Train or History Game as well as try your luck at a Scavenger Hunt. Sunday, Sept. 22, 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.

Museum visitors enjoying games at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.



COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

vegetables, fresh local fruits, baked breads and treats, chicken, tamales, salsa, hummus, gourmet sausage, fresh roasted coffee beans, and much, more. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne.

Wakefield Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Eleven local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Eleven local farmers and producers sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old

Country, Three Puppies, Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Oktoberfest Volksmarch Walk. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Walk, jog or run 3 or 6 miles. German food and drinks. Begin anytime 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Leashed dogs welcome. Trail okay for sturdy stroller. Adult must accompany children under 12. Walk is free. Email nicebrowns@verizon.net for more. Call 703-407-7681 day of event.

NVSO Opening Ceremonies. 9-9:30 a.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 South 2nd St., Arlington. Join the fun and cheer for athletes at the opening ceremonies of Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, featuring the carrying of the NVSO Olympic torch, Color Guard presentation and recognition of County

officials and patrons. The public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. For more information about events throughout Northern Virginia during the competition, Sept. 14-28, call 703-228-4721, go to www.nvso.us or email nvso1982@gmail.com.

AARP Boomers Academy. 9 a.m.-noon at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Join AARP Virginia and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) for the 2nd Annual Boomers and Beyond Academy. Learn about the positive powers of lifelong learning, getting legal documents in order, decluttering a home, and more. Free. Visit aarp.cvent.com/BoomerAcademy or call 1-877-926-8300.

Biketoberfest. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Two guided bike rides: 9 a.m., 24-miles through neighborhoods, along paved path and into Occoquan Park. Restrooms and water mid-way. 10 a.m., 15-mile ride is slower and flatter. German food and drinks at start/finish. Email nicebrowns@verizon.net for more. Call 703-407-7681 day of event.

American Pilgrims Walk. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. American Pilgrims on the Camino, who walked or will walk the Camino de Santiago trail in Spain, will go nine miles through parks. Interested people can join the group for the 9-mile hike to talk with experienced 'pilgrims' and plan their own adventure or live vicariously. Walk is free. German food for purchase. Email nicebrowns@verizon.net for more. Call 703-407-7681 day of event.

Naturalization Ceremony. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Help Gunston Hall celebrate America's newest citizens at this special naturalization ceremony. George Mason helped found the United States of America, and paved the way for others to become citizens. Free admission until 1 p.m. Visit gunstonhall.org/event/naturalization-ceremony or call 703-550-9220.

Workhouse Brewfest. 1-8 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join the fourth annual celebration of craft beer, art, music, distilled spirits, and more. Tickets are available at workhousebrewfest.org. Both General Admission and Designated Driver tickets will be available at the gate during the event. Visit www.WorkhouseArts.org for more.

Find Magical Beasts and Craft a Wand at Harry Ponder. 2-3:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield. While the wizards head to Hogwarts, muggles can celebrate the start of a new school year at Hidden Pond Nature Center with the "Harry Ponder" program. Learn about the nature center's magical beasts, make a wand, have fortunes told by Professor Treefroggie, and defend against the dark arts of pollution. Designed for students age 6-18. \$10 per child. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 14-15

VGC Open House. Saturday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 8 am.-9 p.m. at Virginia Golf Center, 5801 Clifton Road, Clifton. Enjoy the area's largest Toptracer facility as Virginia Golf Center has 38 bays outfitted with the same ball-tracing technology used on the PGA Tour and owned by Topgolf. Free. Family friendly. Visit www.viriniagolfcenter.com or call 703-850-9970.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

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.

Community Fair. 2-5 p.m. at Lorton Station Town Center, 9000 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Lorton Station Community Fair features dance performance, DJ music, fitness demos, facepainting, balloon characters and touch-a-truck. Meet and shop with local business owners. Free admission. Food and drink available for purchase. Call 757-897-5724 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/lorton-station-community-fair-tickets-66831626193.



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

The sun pops out after a severe thunderstorm rolls out of Fairfax Sept. 2 and sheds light on the fall foliage as early as Labor Day in Fair Oaks.

Fall Arrives Early

FROM PAGE 5

THERE IS NO SIMPLE ANSWER to the early defoliation of area trees. “These little things are going to add up,” Bordas says Sept. 9. She has noticed her colleagues point out changing weather patterns as a significant problem.

Our region has experienced warm winters in recent years that have caused the trees to leaf out prematurely, she says. A snowfall in early March or frost in late April damages the new growth.

Katlin Mooneyham, a forest health specialist who works with Chamberlin at the Virginia Department of Forestry, notes weather conditions from back-to-back summers with excessive rainfall in 2018 and extreme heat in 2019 have stressed out the oaks especially.

Dormancy, Bordas explains, is so important for the life of a tree. Consistent weather patterns in which the leaves fall in autumn, followed by freezing temperatures in the winter help the trees rest until spring. Apple trees, she points out, need chilling time.

Mooneyham says her office has fielded calls nonstop in the past few weeks from residents who have noticed changes in leaf color to their trees throughout the state.

“We’re happy to help,” Mooneyham says.

RODGERS understands the climate is changing. While she removes the dogwood fruit from her sidewalk, the retired minister recalls a recent news report of a funeral for a glacier.

Climate change activists and government officials in Iceland held a formal ceremony Aug. 18 for Okjokull, their first melted glacier, declared extinct in 2014.

Another such funeral is planned Sept. 22 to mark the first glacier death in the Swiss Alps: the Pizol Glacier, according to European digital news source The Local.

Rodgers says she holds a master’s degree in library science. She worked her first career in Washington, D.C., as a professional librarian in the science and technology division of the Library of Congress.

She said she furthered her postgraduate studies in religion with a master’s of divinity and a doctorate of ministry and worked for 10 years as a minister for the United Church of Christ.

Rodgers, 76, considers her garden as her personal cathedral and the Reston retiree has renewed her interest in gardening following a 15-year break.

“Science is a real thing,” Rodgers says. “The climate is changing.”

“I don’t see how anyone can ignore that,” Rodgers says on a warm Thursday evening Aug. 22.

Foliage Page

The Virginia Department of Forestry, based in Charlottesville, maintains a fall foliage page on its website at dof.virginia.gov/fall/index. The page contains a state map that notes typical peak color periods in each region of the Commonwealth. Forestry officials update the page each year at the end of September with weekly reports throughout the fall.

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Season Opening with 'Downton Abbey Era'

Guest violinist Janet Sung joins Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in Mason concert.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

September brings the opening of the new Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) season. The FSO launches its new season with a concert evening with music of the "Downtown Abbey Era."

"We're delighted and privileged to continue bringing great music to our community," said Christopher Zimmerman, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Conductor and Music Director. "We're incredibly fortunate and grateful to perform for an audience that seems to love our musical concerts as much as we do."

FSO's "Downtown Abbey Era" concert includes music from composer John Lunn and his "Downton Abbey Suite." Lunn's musical creations have been an integral part of the popular PBS television series; soon to be a major motion picture.

The FSO concert will also include Vaughan Williams' "Lark Ascending," Elgar's "Enigma Variations" (heard in the finale scene of the award-winning movie "Dunkirk"), as well as Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1" and Ravel's "Tzigane."

Since making her major orchestra debut at age 9, violinist Janet Sung has earned an international reputation as a virtuoso soloist. "I am so looking forward to joining the Fairfax Symphony and conductor Chris Zimmerman for their season-opener," said Sung.

"I'll be performing Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending' and Ravel's 'Tzigane.' They are both beloved pieces," noted Sung. "They allow a performer to show a vast range of expressions."

Sung described "The Lark Ascending" as "beautifully lyrical and soaring" while Ravel's



PHOTO BY LISAMARIE MAZZUCCO/
COURTESY FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Janet Sung will be in performance with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra at its 'Downtown Abbey era' concert.

"Tzigane" is a "virtuosic tour de force...that culminates in the wild rush to the end."

Beyond entertainment, "the Arts play a vital role in driving economic growth, and in meeting the artistic and educational needs this growth demands," said Jim McKeever, Chair, FSO Board of Directors. After more than six decades, the FSO continues to reflect Fairfax County's; and the broader region's vibrant future as one of the best places in the world to live, learn, work and play."

McKeever noted that the FSO "serves thousands of residents, employees, and visitors of all ages." Of interest, the FSO is a combination of young, new artists performing together with more veteran musicians. About one-third are active duty, retired and former military service members.

"Live orchestral music provides us with pure entertainment, as well as allowing us to revel in human artistic achievement. It is also an inspiration for creativity in our lives, and a universal bond that can break down social barriers and unite us around a common beauty and truth," added Zimmerman.

Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents "Music of the Downtown Abbey Era" at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019 at 8 p.m.. Tickets: \$65, \$50, \$43, \$39, with \$15 student tickets Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.FairfaxSymphony.org.

Note: Hear the stories behind the music with music director Christopher Zimmerman and special guests before the concert at 7 p.m.

NEWS

Candidates Forum to be Held on Sept. 23

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will hold a Candidate Forum for Fairfax County Chair of the Board of Supervisors and At-Large School Board candidates on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. The

event will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center; 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fairfax.

All certified candidates for the Nov. 5, 2019 General Election have been invited. This event is free

and open to the public, and questions for the candidates will come from the audience.

Questions can be submitted in advance by accessing: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVFA2019

Assistance League to Sustain, Expand Children's Programs

Allstate Foundation awards \$20,000 to assist vulnerable communities in Northern Virginia.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia recognizes The Allstate Foundation, Allstate agency force and employee volunteers who helped the organization secure a \$20,000 grant award to ensure basic human needs are met in vulnerable communities.

In late spring 2019, sixteen members of Allstate's regional advisory board, comprising agency owners, exclusive agents and financial specialists from across Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the Metro D.C. area, came together to participate in a volunteer service activity that yielded 500 bags of nonperishable food items for elementary school children at-risk of hunger on weekends. The efforts of Allstate volunteers allowed the all-volunteer nonprofit to satisfy an immediate unmet need, providing supplemental food to students at two schools not served by its Weekend Food for Kids program. At the time, resources allowed the nonprofit to provide 1,810 bags of food monthly to six partner schools. The extra food bags made a positive difference. In addition, the volunteers' service to Assistance League qualified the organization to apply for The Allstate Foundation's Helping Hands Grant program.

Assistance League recognizes Sharee Merenov, Allstate Capital Region division manager - corporate relations, and the agents who committed their time, resources and energy to help it win the significant grant award, including Christine Angles, Doris Banegas, Frank Ciambone, Benjamin Jessurun, Tae Kim, Michael Lee, Sara Lewis, Mike Masri, James Mwangi, Glenda Palacios, Amber Ritchie, Claudia Rivas, Paul Sarnak, Jason Sengpiehl, Miguel Villegas and Logan Wease.

"As a mom, I know how important it is for kids to eat right to be ready to learn and do their best. As a volunteer, I know how critical it is to have the funding to do what your heart knows is right," said Christine Angles, Allstate exclusive agent in Manassas. "It's been a pleasure working with the Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a group of passionate volunteers working to get kids on the right footing so they can thrive. And, it makes me proud that the Allstate Foundation supports nonprofits like this one where I volunteer my time and work towards making our community better."

The Allstate Foundation grant award will help the organization sustain and expand its successful Op-

Volunteer Information Meeting

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is sponsoring an information meeting to be held on Oct. 9, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd., Chantilly. Join us to learn about the organization's children's programs and how you can help support and expand these activities. Contact Vernetta Gaianni at Membership@alnv.org if interested in attending.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Allstate's exclusive agent, Christine Angles, and field senior vice president of the Capital Region, Robert Becker, engaging in community service.

eration School Bell programs that help nearly 8,000 low-income children in the region every year. Through its New Clothing for Kids, Literacy for Kids and Weekend Food for Kids programs, the nonprofit addresses the negative effects of poverty on children's academic performance and behavior.

The grant funds will be used to purchase nutritious, nonperishable food items, school clothes and new books for students in 11 Title I elementary schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria, where up to 85 percent of the students live in poverty. Some of them experience homelessness or live in multi-family housing environments and rely on the organization to fulfill a number of their basic, critical needs.

With Allstate's partnership, Assistance League will be able to increase the level of support provided to low-income families and expand the programs to include additional schools. Allstate's charitable donation will directly impact children and help prepare them for success in school.

www.alnv.org.

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

2019 Arts Educational Panel. 8:30-11 a.m. at the Reston Community Center Hunter Woods (Rooms 2-3-4). ARTSFAIRFAX welcomes the community to the 2019 Arts Educational Panel, "Think Like an Artist: Creativity in the Classroom" featuring Dr. Kimberly Sheridan, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at George Mason University and Julie Carmean, Museum Educator and Coordinator of Professional Development at the National Gallery of Art. \$10-\$25. Open to the public, but advance registration is recommended at bit.ly/AFXArtsPanel19.

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

♦ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

♦ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

111 Healing Bowls. 6-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Practice with 111 Tibetan Bowls from the Gilung & Sindupalachoka Villages in Nepal. Use these hand-crafted sound tools and support these villages in recovering and rebuilding their homes from the 2015 earthquakes. \$25. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/111-tibetan-healing-bowls-essential-oils-chakra-chocolate-experience-sound-healing-fairfax-va-tickets-64390522787.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Raise Our Frequency. 2-5 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join Dr. Dream and Stephanie as they facilitate this experiential workshop exploring the practical role of frequency in daily life. \$25. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-raise-our-frequency-an-experiential-workshop-in-fairfax-va-tickets-64391794591 to register.

MONDAY/SEPT. 16

Community Conversations. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke. Fairfax County is planning for the next 10-20 years in the community and they want to hear from everyone. Share thoughts, insights, opinions and experiences that will be used to help further shape a countywide strategic plan. Register via www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategic-plan-community-conversations. Arrangements for child care, transportation assistance, interpretation services and reasonable ADA accommodations can be made by calling 703-324-5302, TTY 711, or by emailing Angela.Jones@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Successful Transitions. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway, Arlington. Learn how to successfully transition an individual with dementia into a long-term care setting. Learn important communication tips and reassuring approaches to help ensure a stress-free adjustment. Call Lee Senior Center at 703-228-0555 to register.

Car Seat Safety Check. 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

Public Information Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Fairfax County will hold a third Public Information Meeting on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The meeting will feature an open house from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) staff and project consultants will provide updates on the BRT project (including the system design and potential property impacts), discuss next steps, answer questions and take public comments. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/richmond-hwy-brt.

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Time and Again



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not to be morbid in the least - or self-indulgent in the most (last week's column, "Something or Nothing" notwithstanding), but recently I've had cause to hear about the future and be more concerned about the present.

I have a homeowner problem that like all such problems, is way beyond my limited skills: a crack in the concrete slab which "porches" our house, apparently caused by a very large and old tree growing way too close to this slab.

This is not a water-leaking-into-the-house problem. This is a structural-type problem identified by a home appraiser whom I've paid for - but not bought, to process a mortgage refinance.

Given the two-week time-frame during which I was expecting to schedule this assessment - considering the time-sensitivity of these applications, I was flabbergasted to learn that my expectations were totally unreasonable. Two weeks! I might as well have been asking for two months, which is what I ended up getting.

After hearing the nearly identical appointment-unavailability story multiple times, and getting increasingly frustrated and impatient at the unlikely timely resolution of my problem - in my lifetime (no joke), I finally heard from a company that was able to schedule an appointment which they did so with an apparent straight face (as much as I could glean over the phone): "I can have someone to your house on Oct. 25." I snickered.

"October 25! That's two months," I said. ("I could be dead by then," I said to myself.) To the woman I said, "No. I need someone sooner, in the next week or so. Good-bye." (I made this call on Aug. 21.)

When I hung up the phone I started laughing at what I didn't say and why I hadn't said it. Being that I have stage IV lung cancer, I am not exactly on firm footing.

I didn't say to the woman that I could be dead by then because those words were, figuratively speaking, a bit too close to my literal reality. It was a case of fiction being a bit too close to fact and my mouth actually being able to cash that check.

In addition to providing fodder for this column, my calls to miscellaneous home improvement/concrete/foundation repair companies left me not high, still dry, but totally unrequited. I needed help. I put myself out there and received practically nothing in return. It is a lesson I'll take to the grave.

I don't want to sound unreasonable because I still think I'm of sound mind (not so much sound body), but being diagnosed with cancer does, at least in my experience, move up your timeline, so to speak. There's a certain amount of patience and accommodation that is totally ripped from your subconscious.

When your life is in jeopardy, dealing with the daily double: life and death, becomes extraordinarily difficult, regardless of whether your answers are in the form of questions. The uncertainty of it all is very off-putting. Sometimes, you don't know whether you're coming or going.

Trying to live a "normal" life under these kinds of constraints - and restraints - can make Jack a very dull boy. And very often this dullness manifests itself in one's inflexibility.

When your life is at stake, it's nearly impossible to act as if it isn't. Your brain seemingly gets rewired and re-purposed. As much as you attempt to retain your old and familiar self, this newer cancer-affected version slowly takes over.

You're not exactly in "The Twilight Zone," but "imagine if you will" at age 54 and a half, expecting to live into your mid-80s as both your parents did, instead being told that you have "13 months to two years" to live?

Though I've taken it mostly in stride and lived way beyond my oncologist's expectations, to say one's stride is not changed by the experience is to give naivete a whole new meaning. (Not to mention the fact that the neuropathy in both my feet makes walking extremely difficult.) Nevertheless, life goes on.

As such, as much as I want to plan for the future, sometimes, it's the present for which I need to plan.

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

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