

# Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTREVIEW

DECEMBER 11-17, 2019

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

## Collecting Christmas Toys And Having Fun

NEWS, PAGE 5

Rocky Run eighth-graders (standing) Tyler Zarybnisky and (sitting, from left) Linda Gu, Kendall Viar and Amelia Hamby helped children make holiday crafts at Raise the Ram Winterfest.

## 'It's Important To Remember the Past'

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## Holiday Entertainment

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# Police PFC Brian Carter Is Honored

**Chosen as Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Quarter.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



**PFC Brian Carter is honored as Officer of the Quarter.**

squads on the proper procedures for obtaining, serving and clearing warrants," wrote Burgess.

He also said that Carter readily volunteers for tasks and assignments and leads his squad in serving warrants. "In 2018, he attempted the service of 56 warrants, made 14 arrests and assisted on five other arrests," wrote Burgess. "In 2019, he has already made seven misdemeanor and seven felony arrests. He has also made a huge impact on clearing out the warrant files at the Sully District Station, ensuring wanted persons are contacted, service is attempted, and those warrants that cannot be served are processed and transferred to the appropriate location."

proper location."

Furthermore, wrote Burgess, "Carter is a valued team member who takes minimal leave and rarely asks for accommodation. He exemplifies teamwork and communication while continuing to produce a high volume of work with a high level of accuracy. Carter leads his squad in arrests for 2019 and has served the Fairfax County Police Department with distinction, over the past three-and-a-half years. He also ranks in the top half of his squad for citation activity and second overall for incident activity."

"These commendable traits document fragments of Carter's work and his positive attitude," continued Burgess. "But he is, without a doubt, a producer, and his commanders, supervisors and the citizens of Fairfax County alike have benefited from the fruit of his labor. He has enjoyed a fantastic career thus far and has the potential to experience more highlights while serving with this Police Department. For this reason, PFC Brian Carter is Sully District Station's Officer of the Second Quarter for 2019."

## Centreville Man Charged in I-66 Work-zone Crash

**A**t 12:29 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, Virginia State Police responded to a crash within a Highway Work Zone in the westbound lanes of I-66 at Quincy Street near Exit 72 in Arlington County.

A GMC Yukon traveling west on I-66 swerved into the active work zone and struck six highway construction workers. The vehicle continued off the right side of the I-66 and crashed into a light pole.

There were three occupants in the GMC. The driver and a passenger in the GMC fled the scene on foot. State police and Arlington Police apprehended the two near the scene.

Arlington County Fire transported a total of eight individuals. Four of the highway workers are still being treated at Fairfax Inova for serious, but non-life threatening, injuries. Two other highway work-

ers and the two male GMC passengers were transported to George Washington University Hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

The driver of the Yukon, Kevin L. Blyther, 44, of Centreville, has been charged with driving while intoxicated, one felony count for failure to stop at the scene of a crash involving an injury and one count of driving on a suspended/revoked license. Blyther is being held at the Arlington County Adult Detention Center.

There was a Virginia State Police vehicle positioned in the work zone with its blue lights flashing and the work zone was equipped with additional safety equipment and amber flashing lights to alert motorists of the active Highway Work Zone.

The crash remains under investigation.

## ROUNDUPS

### Helping Our Neighbor's Child

**C**entreville-based nonprofit Our Neighbor's Child is providing new toys and clothes for the upcoming holiday to hundreds of local families with more than 1,700 children. But with such a big undertaking, it needs as much help as possible from the community. Especially needed are donations for gift cards for teens and volunteers

to help deliver all the gifts.

❖ To sponsor a \$25 gift card for a teen, click "Donate" on the ONC website [www.ourneighborschild.org](http://www.ourneighborschild.org) for information about PayPal, Venmo and the mailing address for checks.

❖ Delivery day is this Sunday, Dec. 15, from 1-4 p.m. For details, go to [www.ourneighborschild.org](http://www.ourneighborschild.org).

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# 'It's Important to Remember the Past'

## Honoring Richard Bland Lee at Sully Historic Site.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**orn in 1761, Richard Bland Lee owned the former Sully Plantation on land that's now the Sully Historic Site in Chantilly. He also built the late-18<sup>th</sup>-century house that's there and was Northern Virginia's first congressman.

And now, thanks to the Daughters of American Colonists (DAC), visitors to the Sully Historic Site will also be able to learn about him and what happened on that land. On Oct. 30, they dedicated a marker to him outside the visitors' center there.

The DAC is a genealogical society that focuses on people who lived in the 13 colonies and helps people understand what happened at historic sites. And the Richard Bland Lee Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of American Colonists, developed the new, interpretive sign in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Attendees at the ceremony included county dignitaries, representatives from the Sully Historic Site and DAC officials. County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova quoted author Michael Crichton, who said, "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

"The roots of history run deep in Fairfax County, from the earliest Native Americans, through times of external and internal wars, and through much social change," said Bulova. "It's important for all of us to remember that past – the victories and the mistakes – as we chart our path forward."

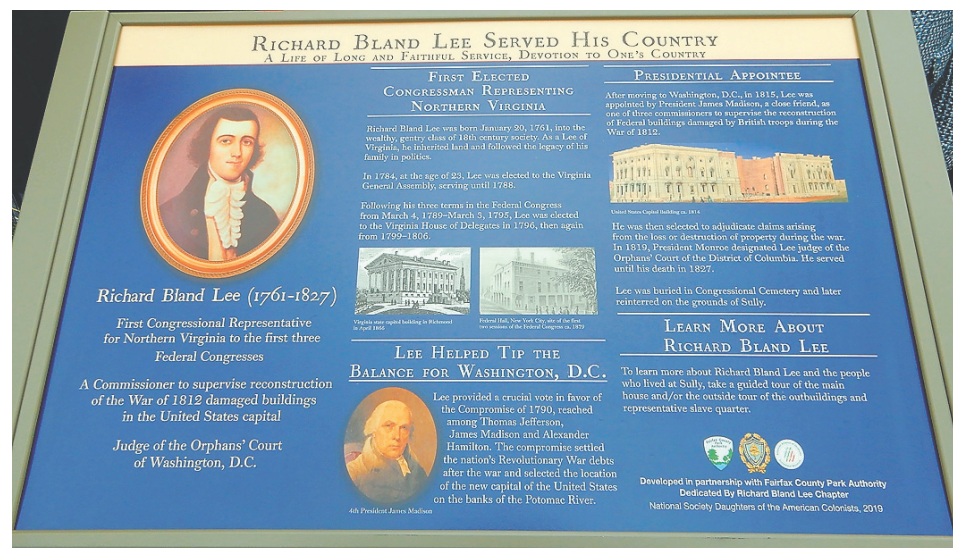
Lee and his wife and children lived on the plantation from 1794-1811, and they had slave labor. Bulova said, "Charles Darwin wrote, 'A moral being is capable of reflecting on his past actions and their motives, approving some and disapproving others.'"

So, she said, "Sully Historic Site helps us in our understanding of so much of that past – from farming and slave labor to our early efforts at building a nation and to our battles to preserve that nation. It teaches us how far we've come as a nation and remembers those who have put us on our current path."

**FROM THE MANOR HOUSE** to the various other buildings on the property, said Bulova, "We get a glimpse of the lives led by those who came to what's now Fairfax County, more than 200 years ago. Walking these grounds, touring the house and experiencing the historical demonstrations at Sully brings that history to life. Documenting this passage of time through interpretive signage allows all of us to better understand this history and the conse-



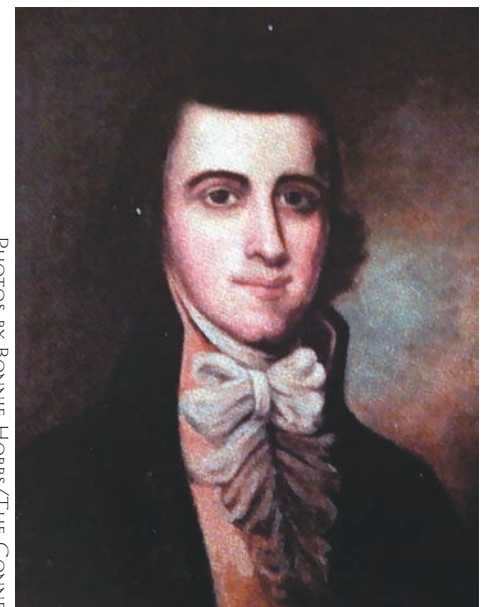
Fairfax County staff, Sully Historic Site staff, Sully Foundation members and elected officials unveil the new sign commemorating Richard Bland Lee.



This new, interpretive sign tells visitors about Richard Bland Lee.



From left, are Noreen McCann, Sully Foundation board members Lee Hubbard and Michael Frey, Sharon Bulova, Kathy Smith, Kirk Kincannon, Carol McDonnell and Sully Historic Site Historian Tammy Higgs.



Richard Bland Lee

quences of the actions we take today. Thank you for keeping the stories alive and for this beautiful marker."

Also speaking was Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully), who was pleased, as well, to be at the unveiling ceremony. "The sign we are about to unveil commemorates Richard Bland Lee's legacy of service to Virginia and our budding nation," she said. "It bridges the years and brings Fairfax County's history closer to its visitors and residents."

She said historic facts must take into consideration the time period during which events occurred, the political realities and ultimately, the human impact. Therefore, said Smith, "We honor Richard Bland Lee today and acknowledge his significant contributions to this nation and to history within that rubric." She also thanked the DAC for "preserving our nation's heritage, serving as a living bridge to our past and recording our history for future generations."

**NEXT**, Park Authority Director Kirk Kincannon noted that, although Lee was born into wealth, he dedicated his life to serving others. After serving in Virginia's General Assembly, he was elected to Congress.

"Lee cast a crucial vote for the Compromise of 1790 that settled the nation's Revolutionary War debts and moved the capital to the banks of the Potomac River," said



Sharon Bulova



Kathy Smith



Kirk Kincannon

SEE MARKER, PAGE 7

CENTRE VIEW ♦ DECEMBER 11-17, 2019 ♦ 3



Strikers walking by the Capitol Hill, including Annabelle Dennen, 14, Great Falls and Cate Coetzee, 14, Great Falls.



Strikers on the streets of D.C.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## 'Fridays for Future' Protests Continue

### Great Falls youth join the strike.

Outside of the Library of Congress, strikers and a golden retriever sit in playing protest music. Their colorful signs read "School Strike For Climate" and "Fridays For Future." It is a scene that repeats itself every Friday. The group was of many ages and were from Maryland,

DC, and some from our Great Falls community. Some have come after a day in school, some have skipped school to be present.

They are striking, as they do every Friday, with the DC branch of Fridays For Future, an international organization founded by Greta Thunberg. They are there to demand action

on the climate crisis as demanded by science, and they have vowed to come back every Friday until they see it.

It is a cold December day, but that doesn't deter them. As the light fades over Washington, two strikers take their shoes off and dance on the sidewalk to Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start The Fire."

—CATE COETZEE

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Supporting 'Less-fortunate Others'

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion piece titled "Commentary: Helping Families Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Fairfax County" (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

As this county is known for its high rank among the richest in the nation, it was pleasing to see awareness brought to the issue of wealth disparity and struggling families in Fairfax.

The rapid growth of industries generates peril for the working-class as individuals view their financial shortcomings as a personal problem rather than a public issue of a sick society. Responsively, the efforts of Cornerstones and Britepaths seemingly work to combat the negative consequences of inequality and economic instability that our capitalist system produces.

The reflecting words of client "Denise" brought an insight into the new feeling of hope provided by the extra allowance from EITC. This hope effectively propelled her and other recipients alike toward

more rewarding opportunities and, eventually, upward mobility. Her comment that "conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people", really weighed on me. My wish for fellow readers is that they think back on how they might've undermined the experiences of "less-fortunate others" in the past.

**Jessica Sarmiento**  
Herndon

#### Time for Community to Come Together

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled "Opinion: Editorial: Give Locally" (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

In NOVA, and especially in the area where I live, the disparity between household incomes can be staggering. It becomes especially salient during Christmas time, when you see people posting pictures of the piles and piles of Christmas presents stacked underneath their tree, and boasting of their "haul" on Christmas morn-

ing, when there are families just a few blocks away struggling to even buy their children one or two gifts. So many people are so far removed from their neighbors and their communities that they don't realize or refuse to acknowledge the issue.

It is incredibly sad to me that there are so many underprivileged students in an area filled with so much wealth, as well as the elitism of certain areas in our community. I hope that our community can come together and provide for those who are in need this holiday season, take some of the burden off of these struggling families, and facilitate a more inclusive and interconnected community for the years to come.

**Molly Van Trees**  
Centreville

#### Karma

To the Editor:

Virginia Republicans should now consider what they've done to folks like John & Renee Thoburn and Lt. Col Oliver North, (Ret) when thinking about this lost elections. Maybe they should make the song by Tim McGraw, "Humble and Kind" an integral aspect of their character. You were respon-

sible for destroying the lives of John & Renee, and you chose to vote for Marshall Coleman, a throw away vote, rather than a decorated Marine/Vietnam Veteran/and your own Republican nominee - Ollie. Now you get to sit in your much deserved time out chair and watch as the Orchestra of the Democratic Party enjoy their well deserved victory. I doubt you learned your lesson about arrogance, but at least now you'll be on the sidelines of change while those much more deserving as you now take the lead in Virginia.

**Dave Minyard**  
Vienna

**Write** The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.  
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A Connection Newspaper

# Collecting Christmas Toys and Having Fun

**R**ocky Run Middle School's National Junior Honor Society held a toy drive last week to benefit Our Neighbor's Child, which provides Christmas gifts to more than 800 local families in need. Then on Saturday, Dec. 7, it hosted Raise the Ram Winterfest so community members could drop off toy donations while children made Christmas ornaments and cards, drew snowmen and candy canes, had their faces painted, took photos with Santa and played holiday-themed games.

**Rocky Run National Junior Honor Society members pose with some of the toys they collected for Our Neighbor's Child.**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



**From left, the Lee sisters, Ava, 6, and Emma, 7, make Christmas ornaments.**



**Ying Wang does face painting on daughter Vanessa, 8, while son Kearson, 5, watches.**



**Rocky Run eighth-grader Esther Min welcomes people to the toy drop-off.**

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Town Hall Meeting.** 1-3 p.m. At Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Featuring Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67th).

### DEC. 26 TO JAN. 13

**Evergreen Christmas Tree Disposal.** The Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative will accept evergreen Christmas trees and greens at its technical center at 5399 Wellington Branch Road in Gainesville, near I-66. Trees and greens — free of all decorations, ornament hooks, wire, and light strings — may be left in the parking lot in the area designated by orange safety cones. By recycling greens into woodchips and mulch, NOVEC's tree crews will reduce the amount of debris added to landfills after the holidays. Contact NOVEC's Vegetation Management department at 703-335-0500 or 1-

888-335-0500, extension 1600, or [VegetationMgmt@novec.com](mailto:VegetationMgmt@novec.com).

### STARTING JAN. 1

**Sully Historic Site's House to Close for Maintenance.** At 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly. The main house at Sully Historic Site will be closed to the public for the first five months of the new year. The historic house will undergo structural repair and maintenance, and it is scheduled to be closed from Jan. 1, 2020, into May. Exhibits, historic artifacts and furniture in the house will be safely protected and packed to make room for work crews. The historic site's grounds, outbuildings and visitor center will remain open, and the center will remain the main point of contact for all visitors. The visitor center will be open Wednesdays through Sundays. Tours of the Fairfax County Park Authority property will resume in March, weather permitting. Cooking classes and demonstrations, scout programs, and all outreach programs will continue. Visit online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site) or call 703-437-1794.

**NOW THRU JAN. 27**  
**HOPE for Mental Health.** 7-8:30

p.m. At Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway, Centreville. HOPE for Mental Health is a support group for adults 18-plus who are dealing with mental health challenges of various kinds. The group is designed to provide a welcoming, confidential, supportive, and spiritually-enriching environment where participants are encouraged to share their experiences, give and receive comfort and encouragement, and learn how faith and reliance on God can instill hope.

Email: Lauren Mowbray at [lauren@cpceco.org](mailto:lauren@cpceco.org).

### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**Residents Can "E-cycle"** at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

**Support Groups.** Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is having its "Living Free" support groups for the spring on Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief."

There are also support groups on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email [livingfree@jccag.org](mailto:livingfree@jccag.org) or see [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

**Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults.** 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults share experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/) and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

**CALENDAR**

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**SPORTS**

# Stallions Beat Bulldogs, Advance to State Finals

The Westfield Bulldogs and South County Stallions both entered the game 13-0, taking the field with the winner to advance to the Virginia Class 6 State football Championship.

Avery Howard's short touchdown reception gave Westfield an early 7-0 lead with 7:56 to play in the opening quarter. Brock Spalding would tie things up with his short touchdown pass with 2:01 to play in the opening quarter. South County would take a 14-7 lead after a 50-yard touchdown reception.

Avery Howard would knot things up at 14 when he scored the second of his two touchdown receptions. However, South County would score two more in the 4th and hold off Noah Kim and his Bulldogs after a short touchdown run by Noah Kim broke the 14 consecutive South County points for a final of 28-21. South County will take on Oscar Smith HS, who defeated Colonial Forge.

—WILL PALENSCAR



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

**South County's Matt Dzierski #8 passes the ball out of the back of the endzone.**

**Obituary**

Lieutenant Commander **David Henry Hill** USN, born Agaña Heights, Guam, October 24, 1981. He was 38 years old at the time of his passing. David was struck and killed by a motorist as he was walking to work at the US Navy Balboa Medical Center on the morning of December 2, 2019.

David grew up in Centerville, VA. He lived in Little Rocky Run and graduated from Centerville High School, Class of 2000. He went on to graduate with High Distinction (3.8 GPA) from the University of Virginia with a degree in Civil Engineering, May 2004.

Following graduation, he joined the US Navy as a Civil Engineer. Upon completion of OCS in 2005, he was assigned to numerous Navy Installations to include Port Hueneme, CA, Souda Bay, Crete, Cheatham Annex, VA and Gulfport, MS, where he earned his coveted Sea Bee War Fighter's pin.

He then decided to pursue a career as a Navy Doctor and graduated in 2014 from NOVA Southeastern School of Osteopathic Medicine. David recommissioned in the Navy and served his Internship at Balboa Medical Center and then volunteered to serve as a Navy Flight Surgeon and was assigned to Belle Chase Reserve Air Base, New Orleans, 2016-2018. He loved New Orleans; the Saints and LSU Tiger football teams; and the cornucopia of Cajun and Creole food, festivals and cultural events. He was completing his second year of Pathology Residency at Balboa Medical Center, CA, at the time of his death.

Throughout his military career, David was a committed physical fitness "fanatic". He ran countless marathons, to include the original marathon course in Athens, the USMC Marathon in DC and in Antarctica on the ship's treadmill. He was also a member of a Master's Swim Training Program for the past five years. He traveled the world... he crammed more experiences and adventures into 38 years than most people could accumulate in five or six entire lifetimes.

He leaves behind his father and mother, Michael and Carol Hill, St. Augustine, FL, sister, Laramie Logan (Pete) Coronado, CA, brother, Matthew Hill (Joanne) Mountain Brook, AL, nieces, Maia and Grace Logan, and nephew Ty Logan, Grandmother, Pearl Kwiatkowski, St. Augustine, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfather and grandmother, David and Francis Hill, grandfather, Henry Kwiatkowski, and a special uncle, Ray Douglas.

He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery at a future date to be determined.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# News

## Marker Unveiled at Sully Historic Site

FROM PAGE 3

Kincannon. “[Later], President Madison appointed him to help supervise the reconstruction of buildings damaged by the British during the War of 1812.”

“At the Park Authority, we’re fortunate to be able to share history with those visiting Sully each year,” continued Kincannon. “Visitors can walk through Lee’s historic home, learn about the lives of Lee and his family and tour the original outbuildings. This new sign commemorating him has been placed close to a Civil War Trails sign that further interprets the history of this land.

And today, I invite you to make your own discoveries here at Sully.”

Carol McDonnell, Sully Historic Site manager, told attendees that President Eisenhower preserved Sully as a historic property. And, she added, “As stewards of this unique site, we’ll continue to take good care of it.”

The marker to Lee was the last project of Noreen McCann before she retired as Sully’s historian and visitor services manager. “This sign further highlights another story Sully has to tell and puts it in perspective in today’s world,” she said. “We’re grateful for the Richard Bland Lee DAC chapter for sharing in this.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

**Fair Oaks Parkinson’s Support Group** for people living with Parkinson’s disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit [www.fairoaksparkinsons.com](http://www.fairoaksparkinsons.com) for more.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia**, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at [gronbiz@aol.com](mailto:gronbiz@aol.com) or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at [lynnieb517@verizon.net](mailto:lynnieb517@verizon.net).

**Operation Paws for Homes**, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See [www.ophrescue.org](http://www.ophrescue.org) for information and all volunteer opportunities.

**Docents Needed.** Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for people who live in the Fairfax, Burke, Clifton or Fairfax Station area and want to contribute to the local community through volunteerism. This is a perfect opportunity for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call Michael at 703-945-7483.

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

## Still Processing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off we go — or not — into the wild blue yonder. It seems that my most recent CT scan’s results, described as “a little worse” by my oncologist are indeed cause for some reflection and change. (I’m not quite able to say “cause for concern,” yet.) As such, to make the most effective change, per my oncologist’s orders, I am scheduled for a needle biopsy on the Wednesday this column publishes. This procedure will determine, if there is a match, to the specific type of cancer tumor that I have. (Without boring you with too many details, the short version is that all cancer tumors are not alike. Biomarkers/genetic mutations such as ALK, BRAF, EGFR, NTRK, PD-L1 and ROS1 are the most common, and certain medicines work better against certain tumor types. Variation in the tumor types, such as the ones I’ve described, is a relatively recent discovery in lung cancer research.)

What this research has led to is another new kind of cancer treatment known as “targeted therapy.” This means than rather than “flying blind,” to use one of my brother, Richard’s, favorite expressions, and employing a one-size-fits-all kind of approach to treatment, oncologists now have specific medicines to infuse when the tumor’s genetic mutation is confirmed. Wednesday hopefully, will confirm something. However, researchers have not discovered all the tumor types so it’s possible that this biopsy will reveal nothing useful for me and in effect, I’ll be back to square one-ish.

As for what ‘square-one-ish’ means? It means that I’ll likely be infusing medicines that previously worked for a time but whose infusions were stopped after they all ran their successful course years ago. As I’ve been told whenever this change became necessary, cancer cells eventually figure out what’s happening to them and then the tumors begin growing. Once this growth is indicated on the CT scan, a new medicine is usually started, and on and on it goes until, apparently now, for me anyhow. “Targeted therapy” offers lots of new medicines. I just need a match. Unfortunately, there’s no guarantee the biopsy will provide just such a match. There’s only one way to find out. On Wednesday, we will begin to find out. To say I have a lot riding on this determination is the understatement of the year; at least for Team Lourie, it is. If I’m forced to repeat infusions from medicines that stopped working years ago, it’ll be “Katie, bar the door,” as we say in Boston which means, “Look out!”

I’m trying not to ‘look out’ though. I’m trying not to look anywhere, except straight ahead. Just because my life may be at stake, is no time to deviate from the norm that has been my modus operandi over the past 11 years. I’m not quite ready to consider that my stage IV lung cancer survival is coming to an end. Maybe it’s just staggering and within a week or so, I’ll get my bearings again. New medical information getting me new medical treatment is sure to put a bounce back in my step. For the first time in 11 years, to quote George Costanza from Seinfeld: “I’m back, baby.” This could be the jolt my body needs to get me through to the next

research level. The Team Lourie strategy has always been for me to try and live long enough to reach the next medical breakthrough. So far, I’ve benefited from a few: tarceva, avastin and alimta; all miracle drugs according to my oncologist, and here I am, living proof that it has all worked.

Until I hear, post procedure, from my oncologist, in the interim, I am re-experiencing many what-happens-if-and-when emotions that I’ve not wrestled with for years. Unfortunately, this hospital visit is taking me back to the visit/biopsy I had in Feb. 2009 which confirmed the malignancy in my lungs in the first place. And here I am, hopefully not in the last place, waiting for the results of a biopsy yet again. It didn’t work out so good in 2009. I just hope I have better luck in 2019.

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

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**2019 White House Ornaments.** The 2019 White House Ornaments are available from the Assistance League of Northern Virginia. White House Ornaments are wonderful for gift giving. This year's White House Ornament is a "whirlybird" honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States. To purchase, contact Cindy Burgess at [burgessgl@verizon.net](mailto:burgessgl@verizon.net). Cost per ornament is \$22. Proceeds support ALNV's local children's programs. Visit the website: [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 5

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** 5:30-9:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 5:30-10 p.m. Fri.-Sun. and holidays. At Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Every year from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, visitors can drive through the Bull Run Festival of Lights. It stretches 2.5 miles and is illuminated by holiday light displays. After viewing the festival of lights, visitors may go to the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and photos with Santa Claus (holiday village open select nights). Visit the website: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>

## FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Vienna Boys Choir.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. There is no sound more celestial than the angelic voices of the Vienna Boys Choir, who return for their annual holiday concert to celebrate the magic of the season. The world's foremost children's choral group performs a delightful program of classical masterpieces, contemporary pop favorites, Austrian folk songs, and beloved Christmas carols with their signature old-world charm and youthful vocal purity. Tickets are \$55, \$47, \$33. Visit the website: [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Wreaths Across America.** 12 noon. At Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Road, Herndon. The Town of Herndon, in partnership with the Herndon Woman's Club, will join Wreaths Across America to honor 850 veterans who were laid to rest at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. The goal is to place a wreath on every veteran's grave. Volunteers, including members of the military, fire and police departments, Herndon Fortnightly Club, Herndon Boy Scouts Troop 1577, Reston Chorale, and South Lakes Junior ROTC, will participate. The cost to sponsor a wreath is \$15. To show your support and to sponsor a wreath, send a check made payable to Herndon Woman's Club, P.O. Box 231, Herndon, VA, 20172. Donations are needed by Dec. 2, 2019. Donations are also accepted online at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/search?searchType=group](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/search?searchType=group). When you either click on this link or type this website in your browser, you will be brought to a search page. Here you will type in Herndon Woman's Club for the Group Name and select Herndon Woman's Club (VA0143P). Visit [www.herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation), or call 703-787-7300.

**Caroling Wagon Ride & Campfire.** 1-2 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Limber up your vocal chords and join in song and exploration on a wagon ride at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Shake off the chill with s'mores at the campfire. This family program is for participants ages 4 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

**Puppet Show.** 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. One-of-a-kind puppet show for children ages 3 to 8. Laugh along with Liza the white squirrel as she tells Sully stories for the holiday season. Help Liza and her furry friends prepare holiday decorations and find out what a funny white squirrel is doing at Sully in the first place. Cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site).

**Holiday Ice Show.** 6:30-8 p.m. At Ion International Training Center, 19201 Compass Creek Pkwy., Leesburg. The Snow Story is a Holiday Ice Show featuring the Loudoun Ballet, 21st Battalion Grey Coats Fife & Drum Band and

Four-Time World Champion Kurt Browning. Cost is \$20-\$30. Visit the website: [www.ionitc.com](http://www.ionitc.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 21

**Caroling Wagon Ride & Campfire.** 1-2 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Limber up your vocal chords and join in song and exploration on a wagon ride at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Shake off the chill with s'mores at the campfire. This family program is for participants ages 4 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## DEC. 27-29

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Cultural Center. The Virginia Ballet Company and School will present its 70th season of the classic "Nutcracker." Ticket prices for reserved seating are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per each ticket. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.vaballet.org](http://www.vaballet.org). Group pricing for these 6 performances is available for groups of 10 or more for the same performance. Call 703-249-8227. The box office opens one hour before performance.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).

## JAN. 17-26

**Joshua's Hands Quilting Event.** Location TBA in Purcellville. Joshua's Hands is a non-profit in Loudoun County that hosts free quilting events to support wounded servicepeople. Joshua's Hands will host 10 days of quilting fun to make handmade quilts for servicemen and women wounded while serving our country. All are welcome. No sewing experience or registration needed. All materials are provided but donations are appreciated. Come for an hour or the day. Monday-Saturdays 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays 1-9 p.m. Purcellville. Check website for exact location. [Info@JoshuasHands.org](mailto:Info@JoshuasHands.org), or call 540-454-7827, or visit [www.JoshuasHands.org](http://www.JoshuasHands.org).

## ONGOING

**Diabetes Sisters PODS Meetup.** Meets the first Monday from 7-9 p.m. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. An evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Opportunities to share experiences, peer support, and lived expertise with others who have been there too. Meet with other women living with diabetes for encouragement, education, and empowerment. Women age 18+ living with any type of diabetes or prediabetes are welcome, regardless of whether they were diagnosed yesterday or 40-plus years ago. They strive to create an open, respectful environment for women with diabetes or prediabetes to truly focus on their health. Free. Visit the website: <https://diabetessisters.org/pods-meetups>

**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](mailto: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



## Virginia Ballet Company Presents "The Nutcracker"

The Virginia Ballet Company and School will present "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 27-29 at NOVA's Annandale Campus.

### DEC. 27-29

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administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## IMPROVING ENGLISH

**One-on-One English Conversation.** Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

**ESL Book Club.** Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

**English as Second Language Book Club.** Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

**Advanced English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

**English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.