

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Friends Kenneth Vo, Daniela Bruno and Alexa Smith, age 12, stand first in line for a chat with Santa during Santa, Stars and S'mores held in Runnymede Park in Herndon.

Herndon on a Holiday High

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Herndon Family Escapes Fire

Two-story home engulfed in flames.

Three children and two adults safely exited their Herndon home after it caught fire early Monday morning, firefighters said. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, along with Loudoun County Fire & Rescue responded to the house fire shortly before 3 a.m. in the 1100-block of Silver Beech Road in the Herndon area located near Route 7.

Firefighters said when they arrived, they found a two-story, single-family house with fire on several levels. There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries. The cause of the fire is unknown.

—MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Fire engulfs Herndon home early Monday morning.

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Greater Reston Chamber Holiday Celebration. 6-9 p.m. At EXO Reston, 1879 Oracle Way, Reston. Delicious food, martinis, casino entertainment, and lots of fun with your Chamber friends at a unique

venue. A portion of the casino proceeds will benefit the INCspre 501(c)(3) educational foundation. Don your cocktail or business attire, gather your staff and join the crowd at EXO. Ticket prices: Members: \$75. Would you like to contribute a raffle prize? Contact Carrie Pulliam at carrie@restonchamber.org to contribute.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

NARFE Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. At

Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. The purpose of this luncheon is to celebrate the Christmas holiday together as a Chapter, so there will be no speaker or reports from Chapter officers and chairs; however, there will be entertainment and the Chapter officers elected in November 2019 for the 2020 year will be installed. There will also be door prizes provided by the Chapter. If you wish SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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Connector Bus Strike Ends

Workers reserve right to walk off again if negotiations fail.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Late Sunday night, Amalgamated Transit Union announced the Fairfax Connector bus strike ended. Normal service was expected on Monday. “We still have items to negotiate, but our riders come first and foremost for us. We are going back to work because their support and that of elected officials and allies have helped us make significant advances at the table,” said ATU International President John Costa. “Our strike was a victory, sending a loud and clear message to Transdev that we won’t tolerate their unlawful tactics at the bargaining table. We do reserve the right to walk off the job again if the good faith bargaining by Transdev disappears.”

According to Amalgamated Transit Union, the strike began Thursday, when more than 500 Local 1764 Transdev workers walked off the job. Fairfax Connector is a privatized transportation system in the region, managed by the French multinational corporation Transdev. On Nov. 9, workers overwhelmingly voted to authorize the strike if necessary. At the time, Local 1764 was in contract negotiations with Transdev, with workers “frustrated over poor treatment and unfair labor practices,” stated Amalgamated Transit Union in a media release. Their current contract expired on Nov. 30.

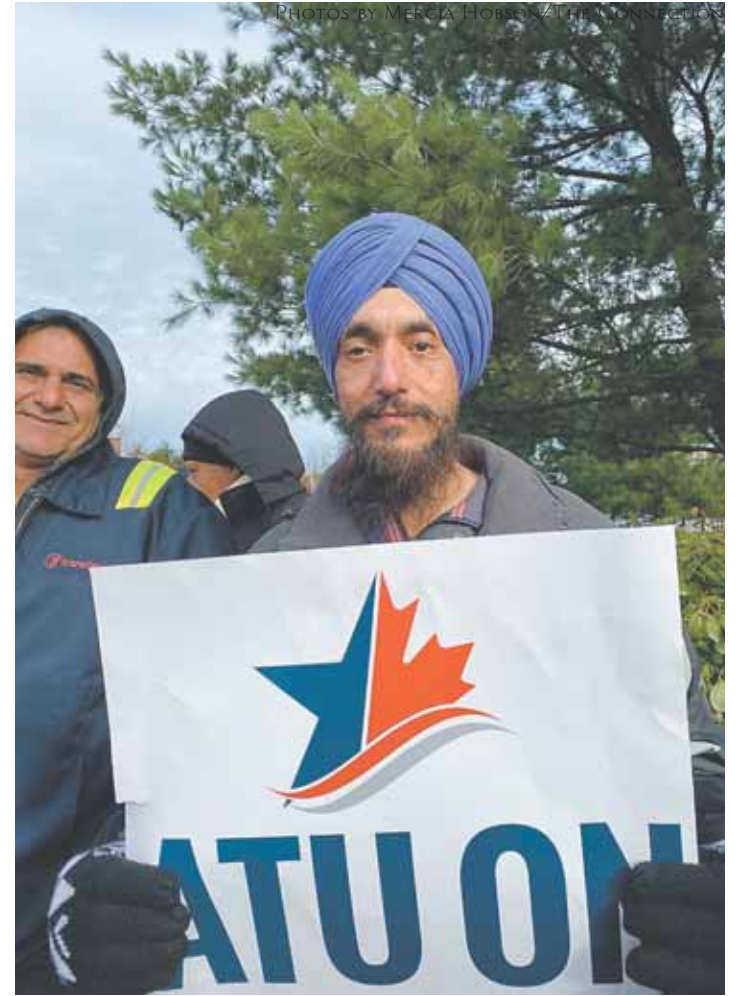
BUS DRIVER Varinderpal Singh Kahlou of Chantilly stood with fellow picketers at the Connector Garage in Herndon on the Day Two of the strike, Friday, Dec. 6. “The strike is affecting me financially, and we are standing in the cold so health-wise too. We have been here since 3 a.m., and we will be here until 6 p.m. The company is hostile towards its employees, and we want a fair contract with increased pay, sick and vacation pay. ... If these companies are not capable of running this Department, why not the County take over and stop wasting taxpayers’ dollars.”

During the strike, Transdev could only operate 15 routes on a Sunday service; meaning 84 percent of service was shut-down. ATU International President John Costa had said earlier, on Nov. 9, “Transdev has no place in Fairfax Connector, WMATA, or any other transit system...They care about one thing, making profits.”

Local concern about the privatization of services has not solely been related to the Connector strike. Employees at the Cinder Bed Bus Garage expressed concern about the privatization of Washington Metropoli-



Elmostafa El Gadoumi, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1764 Transdev worker.



Varinderpal Singh Kahlou of Chantilly, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1764 Transdev worker.

tan Area Transit Authority services. Employees there had been on strike for more than 45 days. However, according to Amalgamated Transit Union: “Strong support has been growing for the Fairfax Connector and Cinder Bed Road strikes from riders, allies and elected officials, many of whom are very concerned about privatization. On Thursday, the Northern Virginia Transit Commission, which appoints a Board Member to WMATA on Virginia’s behalf, passed a resolution further pressuring WMATA on privatization.”

According to the Resolution: “In exchange for providing \$154 million annually to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for State of Goods Repair needs, the Virginia General Assembly imposed a 3 percent cap on increases to WMATA’s annual operating budget. ... WMATA’s management has used, or is considering using, a variety of strategies to reduce annual operating costs, including



Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1764 Transdev workers picket in Herndon Friday morning, Dec. 6.

privatizing the operation at the Cinder Bed Road Bus Garage and is considering privatizing the operations of the Metro Silver Line. ... The disruption of service has created significant hardships for transit riders in Northern Virginia ... The Commission urges WMATA management to take a more active role by resolving the labor contract at the Cinder Bed Bus Garage so that that bus service can be restored to passengers as quickly as possible...the Commission urges WMATA to evaluate the effect of a two-tier wage and benefit structure between its own employees and contractor’s employees in current and future contracting.”

Elmostafa El Gadoumi is a Local 1764 Transdev worker for the Connector. He and fellow Local 1764 Transdev workers stood united on the picket line Friday in Herndon. “We are fighting for fair insurance,” said Gadoumi. As he turned to go back to the picket line, Gadoumi stopped. “Tell our customers, we love them,” he said.



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.
Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
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By e-mail:
editor@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

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

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

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Herndon on a Holiday High

Tweens tell their real wishes for the season.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon put the holidays front and center the first weekend in December with multiple events geared to different ages and interests. From winter games to arts and crafts, homes decorated for the holidays to Santa visits, the Town of Herndon offered these spirited activities and more. While holiday events make memories and foster community, the true spirit of holidays might best have been voiced under the stars, deep in the woods of Runnymede Park.

The Herndon Fortnightly Library celebrated the start of the holiday season with winter-themed crafts and games and a visit with Santa, a first for Emir Oncu, 14 months, during its Winter Holiday Open House. ArtSpace Herndon offered refreshments and a Holiday Gift Shop with the opportunity to meet local artists selling their works and meet members of various town civic organizations.

VOLUNTEERS presented the 2019 Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon as they showcased five homes decorated for the holidays and reflecting the neighborly spirit and community pride that co-chairs Susan Anselene and Keven LeBlanc said in the event program made “Herndon so unique.” Cathy Alifrangis, Beverly McConney and Bev Burns waited on the front porch of the Tollini Family, 719 Dranesville Road. “I’m introducing my two neighbors to this yearly event. It’s a fun way to support local organizations like the Rotary Club of Herndon, docents for that home,” she said.

The town tree lighting with Pride of Herndon, Herndon High School’s band playing holiday favorites and Santa’s visit by fire engine drew many families to Herndon’s historic district.

However, for many children, the event that stood out happened Friday, Dec. 6, in the quiet, under stars at Runnymede Park in Herndon.

In the dark of night, a man dressed in a furry red suit, heavy black boots, and sporting a long white beard made his way across the park’s 58-acres of dense woods. Eventually, he neared a light-filled opening in front of an old stone cabin, the Carroll House, built in 1909.

SANTA watched the dozens of families out under the stars. The Taylor family of Herndon roasted marshmallows and made S’mores. Kevin Taylor, Audrey’s dad, helped her remove the crisp melted confection off her stick and onto the chocolate bar on top of her graham cracker. Santa saw Janie Peerenboom, 5, of Herndon sip hot cocoa, and heard her say, “It’s warm, and it has marshmallows.” He watched children run around the winter wonderland meadow illuminated by twinkling lights strung over-



Cathy Alifrangis, Beverly McConney and Bev Burns visit the home of the Tollini Family at 719 Dranesville Road, Herndon on Saturday, Dec. 7, one of five homes on the 2019 Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon.



Artist Andrea Cybyk shows Marilyn Szoke, Cheyenne Cashin, Caroline Walgren and fellow artist Kat Rodgers her hand-painted ornaments at the Holiday Gallery Shop in ArtSpace Herndon during the 2019 Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon.

head and on the face of the Carroll House.

When Santa made his presence known, though, the cheer went up. He went and sat in a chair near the cabin while parents and children formed a line to wait for their turns to chat with the old man in red.

Three friends, Kenneth Vo, Daniela Bruno and Alexa Smith, stood first in line. When

it was their turn, the trio went up and stood next to Santa. Asked what each wanted for Christmas, Kenneth said, “A dog.” Daniela said, “A cat,” and Alexa said, “A glue gun.” Then Kenneth changed his answer “Peace because we love the world,” he said to Santa, and all walked away.

A moment later, steps from Santa, they

reconsidered their answers. “World peace is what I want,” said Kenneth. “I want to do good in school and want happiness for all for the holidays,” said Daniella. Alexa looked down at the ground and then raised her head. “I recently had a friend pass from leukemia. My hope, my wish is that all with leukemia get better,” she said.



Emir Oncu, 14 months, enjoys the taste of the fake candy cane better than the Candy Cane Relay game during Winter Holiday Open House at Herndon Fortnightly Library.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Owners of homes on the 2019 Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon, the Tollini Family, the Levin Family, Clara Monceau, and Dorin Araneda, Al Hobson, and Rosaleen Presley, Eric Nordling and Ian Nordling show off pen and ink sketches of their homes by Reston artist Pat Macintyre, gifted to them by the Homes Tour Committee in appreciation of their support of the festive yearly tradition.

Legals

I am pleased to announce that Dr. John Josephson and his team at Eye Specialists and Surgeons of Northern Virginia will be caring for patients at Great Falls Ophthalmology starting in 2020. I will be working on a part-time basis in Great Falls in 2020, and then I will fully retire from ophthalmology practice on June 30, 2020. For those who wish a copy of their medical record, please contact us and make a written request. You will be able to pick up your entire paper chart at the office before late December at no charge, or receive a paper photocopy or a digital copy at any time in the future for a \$10 fee.

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HOME LIFE STYLE

Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.

PHOTO BY
RICHIE DOWNS/
ASICO PHOTO



Lighting Up the Season

Holiday designs to benefit Children's National Hospital.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Holiday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. "Light Up the Season," the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children's National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children's National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children's Christmas book, "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall.

"Through a child's eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children," she said. "We have embraced them in children's literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts."

Using a recording of "O Tannenbaum" and musical-themed ornaments, Potomac, Md. designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, assembled a melodious creation. "During our get-to-know-you session, I discovered that my partner is quite the musician," she said. "He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided

to make our tree a musical tree."

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner's love of animals, the design team at Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe.

"Our team had a lot of fun decorating ... we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings," said Harvey. "We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of hand-made clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon."

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. "We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years," said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient's predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree

filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in nature-themed setting. "Fairies have a long history [of] symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans," said Meyer. "Light Up the Season" is a fairy-like event that exists to help others."

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child (ages 16 and under), \$85 per adult and \$250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

to provide gifts for door prizes, bring wrapped gifts of a maximum value of \$10 each. The Chapter will also be collecting non-perishable food items which will be donated to a local food bank for the less fortunate during the holiday season. The cost of the luncheon is \$18.15. Call your reservation and choice of entree to Shirley at 571-442-8910 by Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 or email Shirley.Boning@comcast.net

TUESDAY/DEC. 17

DMV2GO at the Library. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

Bus Service Survey Extended

Fairfax County Department of Transportation has extended the Fairfax Connector Reston-Herndon bus service online survey until Dec. 27, 2019. Residents may provide input on the service alternatives by completing the survey at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/herndon-reston-service-review. Comments can also be mailed to Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033. Providing opportunities for engagement and input about improvements to bus service in Herndon and Reston and to future Metrorail Silver Line Phase 2 stations, is integral to FCDOT's effort to hear from residents and Fairfax Connector riders about how they would like to see bus service improved and restructured to accommodate service to the new Metrorail stations. Visit www.fairfaxconnector.com to stay informed with the latest news and information.

Commemorative Brick Program.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum will be celebrating its commemorative brick program. Members of the community are encouraged to support not only the Reston Historic Trust & Museum on Giving Tuesday – but to do so by ordering a commemorative brick which is a great way to leave your mark on Reston or give as a gift to friends, family, teachers, neighbors, organizations, or even a pet. Commemorative bricks can be ordered at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks>. The bricks are ordered only once a year. Bricks to be installed in 2020 must be ordered by Jan. 8, 2020. Bricks are then reviewed by the Lake Anne Condominium Association and Reston Historic Trust & Museum. They are displayed and dedicated on Founder's Day, which will be April 18, 2020 and installed shortly thereafter dependent on weather.

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.org/www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

ONGOING

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, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or 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 or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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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/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Santa's Secret Shop. Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m. thru Dec. 22. At Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, at Route 28 and Route 7 at Claude Moore Park in Sterling. Children can shop in the barn theatre for their parents, grandparents, siblings, and teachers with the help of volunteer elves and museum staff. It will offer a selection of gifts priced under \$10. Santa's helpers will be available to help children wrap purchases with special bags and ribbons. When they are finished shopping, children can send a postcard to Santa at the North Pole. While waiting, parents can browse the museum gift shop where most items will be marked down 50%. Visit the website: www.heritagefarmmuseum.org

"Matilda The Musical." Now thru Dec. 22. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Show times are Thursdays through Sundays. A Broadway musical about a courageous girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to — and change your destiny. Based on the book by Roald Dahl. Tickets start at \$40; Family 4-pack available — Buy 3 get one free with code "NextStopFam." Call 866-811-4111 or visit the website: nextstoptheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

Wednesday Morning Book Club. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. This month's title is "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. Visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Kalypso's Holiday Party. 6:30-9 p.m. At Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N, Reston. An event catered to Restonians, business professionals and the self-employed. For those that may not have an office holiday party or just want to kick off the holiday, come and enjoy wine tastings featuring Ancient Peaks, Duckhorn Decoy, Elouan, Catena and Laurent Perrier Wineries, Heavy Appetizers, DJ spinning the tunes, Photobooth and two drink tickets included in the package. Come dressed with some holiday flare and have a chance to win some fun prizes. Purchase discount tickets by midnight this Friday for \$20 (Regular Price: \$25).

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body. 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. To help people age well, the Alzheimer's Association, National Area Chapter, this workshop covering four areas of lifestyle habits that are associated with healthy aging: cognitive activity, physical health and exercise, diet and nutrition, social engagement. Visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Thai Chi Fitness Classes. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a fun Tai Chi fitness class led by local instructor Susan Shen. Adults. Visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

"Nightmare Before Christmas." 7-9:30 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Bring your floats and rafts, kick back, relax, and enjoy a showing of the movie, "Nightmare Before Christmas" in the pool. Doors open at 7 p.m. and movie will begin at 7:30 p.m. Children 8 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 6 must have a parent or guardian in the water with them. Pizza, candy, soda, and water will be sold. Cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Visit herndon-va.gov, or call 703-787-7300.

Holiday Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. At Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Encore Chorales of Reston and Fairfax present traditional and contemporary holiday music with 100-plus voices. This is a joint concert with Encore Chorales of Reston and Fairfax. Singers come from various communities in western Fairfax and eastern Loudoun. All ages welcome. Email: EncoreReston@gmail.com. Visit the website: www.EncoreCreativity.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Children's Holiday Shopping. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Secret shoppers will assist your



Wreaths Across America in Herndon

The Wreaths Across America event will take place Saturday, Dec. 14 at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.

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.wreathsassamerica.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, or call 703-787-7300.

children in choosing gifts for everyone on their list — parents, grandparents, siblings and friends — and help wrap them for the holidays. You can set a budget, and kids can choose from a variety of reasonably priced items in the store. Register for a time slot on the half-hour. The cost is \$5 per child. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

Reston Holiday Open House. 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join the staff as they celebrate the holiday season with light refreshments, music, entertainment and fun. Visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

European-Style Holiday Market. 12 noon to 8 p.m. At Town Hall Square, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Some 30 artisans and food vendors will offer their handcrafted goods for sale. In addition, there will be German beers, waffles, lebkuchen (traditional German gingerbread cookies), stollen (cake-like fruit bread), glühwein (warm mulled wine), Swiss raclette, smothered poutines and grilled German sausages. Also handmade toys, jewelry, arts, woolen and wooden crafts. German bands, holiday choirs and fantastical skits. Visit the website at herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

Wreaths Across America. 12 p.m. 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. Send a check made payable to Herndon Woman's Club, P.O. Box 231, Herndon, VA, 20172. Donations are needed by Dec. 2, 2019. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

Handmade Holiday Ornaments. 1-2:30 p.m. At Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. Combine holiday fun with DIY ingenuity and what do you get? The most creative handmade ornaments you will ever make! Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff. (Note: Parents will need to assist children with the creation of ornaments, and children must be accompanied by a participating adult. Adults may come on

their own and do not need to be accompanied by a child, it will be fun for everyone). All ages. Sponsored by Reston Community Center. \$10 for residents/\$20 for non-residents.

Nuttin' Like the Nutcracker. 4-5:30 p.m. At Aldrin Elementary School, 11375 Center Harbor Road, Reston. Holiday family fun with selections from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky and presentations by Aldrin Elementary students. Bring your own bells or other favorite instruments, as well as your voices. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. Visit the website: www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

Calamity Improv. 7:30 p.m. At ArtSpace, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come ring the bells! Improv with a seasonal twist. Recommended donation of \$10. Call 703-956-6590 or visit the website: artsherndon.org

"The Nutcracker." 7:30 p.m. At Reston's CenterStage, RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Presenting the Conservatory Ballet's 47th rendition of The Nutcracker. This year's performances in Reston are especially meaningful as they represent a mother-daughter team working together to keep a 47-year-old family tradition alive. This year's performance features many young, local dancers including: Ana Bustamante (Reston), a Junior at Herndon High School with a passion for singing and music; and Audrey Kelley (Reston) a Senior at South Lakes High School with a passion for ballet and sports; Audrey has been performing with the company since she was 5 years old. Tickets are \$23-\$28. Visit www.principalballet.co or email nutcracker@conservatory-ballet.com.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY DEC. 14-15

Holiday Model Train Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. W&OD caboose and Depot Museum also open for tours. Free. Call 703-437-5556.

DEC. 14-22

"Santa's Funky Hawaiian Christmas Cabaret." At StageCoach Theatre Company, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120, Ashburn. StageCoach Theatre Company presents a musical revue, "Santa's Funky Hawaiian Christmas Cabaret". Dinner theatre performances on Dec. 22 and non-dinner performances will be held on Dec. 14, 15 and 21. Ticket prices range from \$25 for non-dinner performances to \$60 when dinner is included. This show will feature the vocal talents of Lisa

Alford, Kat Brais, Doug Marcks, Joey Olson, Katie Pond, and Jolene Vettese. This musical revue is produced by Jerri Wiseman, a co-owner of StageCoach Theatre Company. Reservations for dinner theatre performances are required for catering purposes. Reservations can be made online at <https://stagecoachtc.com/santas-funky-hawaiian-christmas-cabaret/>

DEC. 14-23

"A Seussified Christmas Carol." At StageCoach Theatre, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120, Ashburn. StageCoach Theatre for Young Audiences presents a family-friendly tale, "A Seussified Christmas Carol". The show is a whimsical reinvention of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets. With zoot fruited juices and binka bird geese, from Bed-Headed Fred to Timmy Loo Hoo, this tale of glorious holiday cheer is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with — if he ever had his way with the story. This classic story has been "Seussified" by playwright Peter Bloedel and brought to life by director Linda Cirba. This show will open on Dec. 14 with performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The show continues Dec. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m., Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and again during the week leading up to Christmas on Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3-12. Reservations are encouraged at <https://stagecoachtc.com>. Tickets will be sold at the door pending availability. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Doors open 30 minutes prior to the show time.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Wagon Rides with Santa. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. You're in for a jolly time when Santa takes the wheel on the "Wagon Rides with Santa" at Frying Pan Farm Park. Celebrate the holiday season with Santa in the driver's seat. Enjoy hot cocoa and roast marshmallows by the fire before or after your wagon ride. Age 2 to adult. Register for rides on the half-hour. The cost is \$5 per person. A registered adult is required to attend with all registered children. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

West Coast Swing Lesson plus Social Dance. 5-8 p.m. at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St. #1, Herndon. Instructor Tim Bowker and partner Laura Martin will teach West Coast Swing, 5-6 p.m. Classes videotaped for individual review. Basic skills recommended. Social dancing, 6-8 p.m. WCS crossovers and ballroom, Latin, Hustle contemporary mix. \$10; \$8, USA Dance members. Email herndonsocialdancers@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/herndonsocialdancers.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Hour of Code. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in an Hour of Code, a hands-on opportunity to learn and practice your coding skills using computer games and robotics. All experience levels welcome. Adults, Teens. Visit the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

Family Board Game Pop-Up. 6-8 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Starting Player Pop-Up Company brings a wide variety of board games you've never tried: quick silly games, strategic, games for small or large groups, plus the knowledge and expertise to teach them quickly. Games can take between five minutes and up to an hour. Create your own nut-free trail mix. Cost is \$4 person/\$14 per family, per date. visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

Friday Sound Series. 7:30 p.m. At ArtSpace, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Holiday music and stories from Appalachia with local musicians, and storytellers. Recommended donation of \$10. Call 703-956-6590 or visit the website: artsherndon.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

Children's Winter Wonderland. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free admission. Includes crafts, face painting, holiday letter writing, games, sweet treats, storytime and more. Please bring a canned/non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Angel Workshop & Sale. 2-4 p.m. At Hambrock Holistic Healing Center, 297 Herndon Parkway, Suite 105, Herndon. They will use meditation to get you in contact with your angel. After the meditation, they will share angel stories and get to know each other. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.hambrockholistichealing.co/>