

Reston CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Accompanied by elves on stand up paddle boards, Santa sets course for the Lake Anne Plaza dock, Reston to participate in Jingle on the Lake.

Jingling All the Way

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PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GEARY

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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.

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. 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 displayed and dedicated on Founder's Day, which will be April 18, 2020 and installed shortly thereafter dependent on weather.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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 carriep@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 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

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Environmental Priorities for Virginia

Virginia Conservation Network Hosts 2019 General Assembly Preview.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In preparation for the Virginia General Assembly, 2020 Session, the Virginia Conservation Network and its Network partners convened Saturday, Dec. 7 in Richmond, for a preview of environmental issues in the coming session of the General Assembly. The group provided information for a collective approach to advancing policy.

There were nine watch parties across the state; including the one in Reston. Kyle Gatlin, state climate organizer at Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the event held at the National Wildlife Federation Reston Office. Great Falls Group Sierra Club Virginia and Choose Clean Water Coalition hosted the location.

“All watch parties across the Commonwealth will be viewed simultaneously. The only thing different is the location and sponsors. The goal is partially to raise awareness of environmental issues in the Commonwealth but also to empower and excite attendees and the public to take further action. They can take action through our partner organizations in their programs,” said Gatlin.

AFTER EACH SPEAKER’S REMARKS, watch party attendees could text their questions into Richmond. “We will try to get in as many questions as we can and tend to get questions from every geographic area, some specific to that region based on the topic. The transportation funding question has been popular in previous years in the Northern Virginia region,” Gatlin said.

Paul Duncan of Fairfax attended the Reston event with the goal of education and action. “I’m here today because I’m eager to learn what’s possible for Virginia, now that Democrats have taken control. I want to know how I can contribute,” he said.

For twelve-year activist Susan Stillman of Vienna, there wasn’t anything more important than dealing with policy and climate change as well as powering Virginia with clean energy. “Policy in Virginia needs to change relative to our investor-owned electrical utilities,” she said.

According to Alex Rough of Reston, political and transportation chair of the Great Falls Sierra Club, Northern Virginia is the “capital of the internet with about 70 percent of the world’s internet traffic passing through the region.” “New Virginia Dominion Power fossil fuel projects are being undertaken at the behest of the data center growth in Northern Virginia. ... Otherwise, the demand for new fossil fuel infrastructure is relatively flat. I implore Virginia state leaders to support legislation demanding new data centers projects be based on 100 percent renewable energy,” Rough said.

Douglas Stewart of Fairfax City focused



During the Reston Watch Party of the Virginia Conservation Network’s 2019 General Assembly Preview, attendees discuss collective approaches to advancing priority environmental policy in the upcoming state legislative session.



Susan Stillman of Vienna at the Reston Watch Party of the Virginia Conservation Network’s 2019 General Assembly Preview.

on building sustainable communities by curbing vehicle pollution and transforming transportation. “I’m interested in creating more walkable, bicycle-friendly communities. That’s why I’m here today. I like this environmental community, and it’s a great way to act on my priorities. I love to walk and bike, and by doing that; I can help the environment by reducing pollution. It all fits together,” he said.

Susan Bonney of McLean came to learn what Virginia bills needed to pass to stop construction of “fracked natural gas pipe-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Alex Rough, Political Chair/Transportation Chair of the Great Falls Group-Sierra Club discusses fossil fuels and data center growth in Northern Virginia.

line,” she said. “I learned today that the pipeline developers’ energy demand forecasts are now so off and wrong that there will not be a public benefit from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline. Our General Assembly needs to pass bills that will make state agencies do transparent analysis to investigate the need for pipelines that impact our water and communities.”

Approximately 40 people, including Virginia State Del. Ken Plum (D-36), attended



Emcee Kyle Gatlin, state climate organizer at Virginia Conservation Network, opens the Reston Watch Party.

the Reston Watch Party and viewed the live stream presentation by Virginia Conservation Network.

“I am more hopeful for positive environmental legislation for Virginia in the upcoming 2020 General Assembly than I have ever been before,” said Plum. “The public is more acutely aware of the dangers of climate, and they voted accordingly in the last election. The new members coming into the legislature are more environmentally conscious and friendly than many from the past.”

At 9 a.m., Saturday morning, all watch party locations connected to the Richmond In-Person Preview, hosted by Virginia Conservation Network, The Frontier Project at 3005 West Marshall Street, Richmond. Mary Rafferty, executive director of Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the two-hour presentation. “Each year, we work with 225 (partners) to come up with the year’s agenda and work to ensure that we push it forward throughout the year but particularly during the General Assembly Session.”

NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDING in the state budget was the first topic reviewed as a statewide conservation priority during the General Assembly preview. Peggy Sanner, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Zachary Sheldon, The Nature Conservancy spoke.

“This year, we have the wind at our back in at least three ways. We have our governor’s commitment to triple the size of the portion of the general fund for natural resources. In 10 days, he’s going to introduce his Biennial Budget for the next two years. This is what he is committed to doing. We don’t know what it is going to say yet, but we have optimism based on his commitment. And third, the energy brought

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES.

PAGE 6



Strikers walking by the Capital 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

Start with a Clean Slate

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

COMMENTARY

Taking down Confederate monuments is but one part of a continuing story in Virginia as the Commonwealth tries to come to grip with its racist history. The story is in no way a pretty one. Africans who were brought to the colony as enslaved people were kept in bondage with cruelty and repression. They were stripped of their names and given names that had no meaning to them. Slaves were for the most part not taught to read and their ability to congregate together was severely restricted. They were overlooked in the Declaration of Independence and considered only three-fifths of a person in the Constitution. When Virginia plantations no longer found their labor needed with the depletion of the soil in the state, slaves were sold into the deep South with their families being broken up. The Civil War brought emancipation, but repression of Black people continued with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, lynching, and Jim Crow laws. It was not until the Civil Rights Act of 1965 that African Americans started to realize what equal protection of the laws really meant.

During this history the General Assembly of Virginia passed laws that make those of us interested in the state's history hang our heads in shame at the racism they embodied. Earlier this year Gov. Ralph Northam appointed The Commission to Examine Racial Equality in Virginia Law to take a look at the language and intent of legislative actions in *The Acts of Assembly* and the *Code of Virginia*. The interim report issued this past week was shocking to those of us who study this issue for its sheer volume as well as for the stark language it uncovered of racism in the laws. Take a look for yourself at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Interim-Report-From-the-Commission-to-Examine-Racial-Inequity-in-Virginia-Law.pdf>.

Passed as recently as 1956 was a law, part of Massive Resistance, that provided that "no child shall be required to enroll in or attend any school wherein both white and colored children are enrolled." The Commission found that "Virginia policymakers engaged in deliberate and coordinated legislative strategies to deny equal educa-

tional opportunities to black students..." There are numerous examples of laws including the poll tax that were intended to keep black people from voting.

Though most of the laws identified by the Commission are outdated and have no legal effect, they remain in the law. The Interim Report states that "the Commission believes that such vestiges of Virginia's segregationist past should no longer have official status." Laws that have been found to be unconstitutional or otherwise been invalidated should be repealed to ensure that they "could not be revived with a change of

law or interpretation by a different leadership or court."

The Commission found that "white and nonwhite Virginians face starkly disparate outcomes in health, educational attainment, financial stability, and access to justice. Any assessment of their disparities must take into account Virginia's haunting legacy of coordinated, intentional, and official acts of forced segregation and overt racism." The past is for recording in history books and not in official laws of today. The General Assembly meeting in January must take the important step of wiping the slate clean!

LETTERS

Carma

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 responsible 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

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PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE GEARY



PHOTOS BY CHARLOTTE GEARY

Accompanied by elves on stand up paddle boards, Santa sets course for the Lake Anne Plaza dock, Reston to participate in “Jingle on the Lake.”

Jingling All the Way

Santa arrives at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Much to the delight of local families, the Lake Anne Washington Plaza Merchants Association hosted its classic holiday event, ‘Jingle on the Lake,’ Saturday, Dec. 7. Santa Claus made his arrival at noon by pontoon boat, escorted by Grand Marshal and Reston resident Susann Gerstein. She closed her shop, Small Change Consignment, located on the plaza, summer of 2019, after a nearly 38-year run.

Families, especially those with small children, came early to Jingle on the Lake. They participated in cookie decorating with Teapot & Cake, a custom cake boutique on the plaza, heard the holiday music performance by Good Shepherd Adult Choir, and did a little shopping at the Reston Farmers Market and Reston Craft Market.

All-day long, families had the opportunity to visit the Lake Anne Plaza stores, see the exhibit, “Live, Work, and PLAY! Toys of

the 1960s” at the Reston Historic Trust & Museum and pick up a letter to write to Santa and mail to him at the North Pole Mail Service inside Chesapeake Chocolates.

Precisely at noon, Santa Claus’ pontoon boat floated toward the plaza dock, clear skies overhead and a soft breeze at his back. Escorted by his friendly team of stand up paddle boarding elves, the jolly old man waved to hundreds of fans, debarked Santa Pontoon One, and settled down not by “the chimney with care” but on one of the park benches on the plaza.

Santa welcomed all who believed in the magic of the holiday season to join him for a chat. Among the hundreds of believers who visited Santa at Lake Anne Plaza were: Clive Richardson, 5, and Robert, 4; parents Glenann Godden and Eric Kemp of Reston and their sons, Grey Kemp, 4, and Clark, 18 months; parents Amina and Vetha Kai with their children Maanik Kai, 4, and Caspian Kai, 16 months; Calia Pesce, 6, of Reston; and Kenny Demick, 6, of Reston with Miles Biers, 6, of Herndon.



Calia Pesce, 6, of Reston listens as Santa shares his thoughts with her.



Hundreds of admiring Santa fans line the Lake Anne Plaza dock.



The man of the hour who puts smiles of everyone’s faces is Santa Claus at “Jingle on the Lake,” held Saturday, Dec. 7 at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston.



Clive Richardson, 5, and Robert, 4, share their letter to Santa.



Kenny Demick, 6, of Reston and Miles Biers, 6, of Herndon get settled for their talk with the man from the North Pole during “Jingle on the Lake” hosted by the Lake Anne Washington Plaza Merchants Association on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Employment

Engineer 4, Product Development Engin- Comcast Cable Comm, LLC, Reston, VA. Provide tech leadership to team that engineers & supports lifecycle ops of 3rd party SDN/NFV NW platforms. Reqs: Bach in CS, Engin, or rtd; 5 yrs of NW exp, of which 4 yrs incl use protocols such as BGP, IP-Sec, VxLAN, netconf, or GRE; & use Python/Java to perform enterprise SW devel for Linux-based systems. Apply to: haley_noll@comcast.com. Ref Job ID# 4209.

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.

Timothy J. Malone, M.D.
731 Walker Road, Suite F
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-7016

Employment

Research Engineer in Reston, VA to conduct research, development, & test activities for network security co. Send resume to I. Sodhi, Job #678, Palo Alto Networks Inc, 3000 Tannery Way, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

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Announcements

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in the holidays with
traditional music for
patrons at Dolley
Madison Library in
McLean on Dec. 7.**



Environmental Priorities

FROM PAGE 3

in by the new General Assembly on the environment.”

Sheldon said, “An important tool we want to leave as it is, is the Land Preservation Act Tax Credit. It’s a very effective program and very popular.” Virginia allows an income tax credit for 40 percent of the value of donated land or conservation easements.

Bold action on climate, the second statewide conservation priority was the topic for Will Cleveland, Southern Environmental Law Center and Harrison Wallace, Chesapeake Climate Action Network. “You’ve probably heard me talk about this before, that’s the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I think this is the year we are going to get this up and have the most equitable version of this bill,” said Wallace.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI, pronounced “Reggie”) is the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Cleveland, there are four pillars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the first to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector. “That means fewer coal plants, fewer gas plants. REGGIE is how we do that...The next thing we need to do is to reduce the amount of energy we use. ... The less you use, the less you pay. There is going to be legislation this year that will require the utilities to hit certain energy efficiency saving targets - making sure they are burning less. ... Energy efficiency is actually the single most labor-intensive type of energy resource out there while being the cheapest. It creates the most jobs. It saves the most money. We don’t do nearly enough in Virginia. We are going to see legislation do that,” said Cleveland. “The third pillar is distributive generation ... We have, in Virginia, laws that allow customers to put solar on their roofs. There are, however, some limitations on what you can do; how much you can have, where you can put it. We are going to see legislation this year ... to remove the existing market barriers ... so more people can go solar. ... We call it ‘boots on the roof.’ That’s how you create jobs in clean energy.

“The last piece [is] ... building out utility-scale solar, building out the offshore wind. There are good ways to do these things, and there are the Dominion ways of doing these things,” Cleveland said.

Virginia Conservation Network named protecting waterways from plastics pollution and toxics as its third conservation priority, presented by Danielle Simms, Virginia League of Conservation Voters and Zach Huntington, clean streams program manager, Clean Fairfax.

“The plastic bills are pretty straightforward; what we are expecting. There are two in the Senate that have already been introduced. Senate Bill 11 is a local option tax on paper and plastic bags, with a 5-cent tax for those bags. Four cents going back to the locality so they can use it appropriately as they see fit. One cent goes back to the distributor of the bag;

that helps offset the cost. SB 26 is a 5-cent tax on a plastic bag given to a customer free of charge for Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Both of these together would create a really strong plastic bag plan for Virginia going forward.”

A four-person panel presented: “Other Statewide Conservation Issues Expected.” Panelist named and discussed, “Transportation Funding, Dominion Energy Accountability, Creating Wildlife Corridors and Preventing Offshore Drilling.”

In the third and final presentation, Mary Rafferty, Virginia Conservation Network, offered, “Tools and Strategies for being an Effective Conservation Advocate in 2020,” a guide on how to communicate with legislators throughout the year to show that protecting Virginia’s environment is a priority. She shared that information on how to get in touch with state legislators could be found at <http://vpap.org>.

REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS followed the live stream. At the Reston Watch Party, comments ranged from the amount of electric energy used by Northern Virginia data centers, eradication of solar energy barriers and that the Watch Party marked six weeks until the start of the 2020 legislative session. Attendees reiterated the need to reach out to legislators while Gatlin reminded all to mark their calendars for Jan. 28, 2020, Conservation Lobby Day, to ensure a strong voice early in the legislative session.

Virginia Conservation Network is “a facilitator of strategic action, a resource for Network Partners statewide, and a constant conservation presence in Virginia’s Capital. The organization and its staff focus on strengthening the conservation community as a whole and winning environmental victories that benefit all Virginians.” Visit www.vcna.org for more information.

Legislators Action

State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36):

“Personally, I have a few priorities. First, I am introducing legislation to ban fracking East of I-95.

“Second, I am introducing a bill to encourage more home energy audits are part of home sales. If home purchasers require home energy audits and repairs from that it could save millions of tons of carbon dioxide on an annual basis. Wasted energy is our cheapest energy resource to tap.

“I will also be introducing legislation to begin to prepare Virginia for electric vehicles including ‘right to charge’ legislation to prohibit condominium and homeowners associations from restricting owners rights to install chargers in their own parking lots along, with an electric vehicle purchase grant program (in lieu of a tax credit).

“I will also be introducing legislation to allow community net metering so that groups of homeowners can build solar panels on third-party property and reap the benefits on their own electric meters. This is the only way people can get solar in more established neighborhoods such as most of those in the 36th District where mature tree cover limits neighborhood solar potential.”

Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67):

“I am proud to be an ally and partner of the Virginia Conservation Network and its partners. I support their 2020 legislative efforts and will personally be filling legislation which furthers their goals and visions.”

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Herndon High School Library needs volunteers. Training available to help with reshelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email hhs_library@fcps.edu.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonsfoundation.org. Call Natalie McCall nmccall@onelifefitness.com 703-904-7600 for more.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Hypothermia Prevention: An Emergency Program for the Homeless To help our vulnerable neighbors survive the winter, we provide overnight shelter with a "no turn-away" policy at all emergency homeless shelters during freezing weather. Through the coldest months of the winter, we also provide the Hypothermia Prevention Program, a countywide community network of 45 overnight shelters. Through this program last winter, our nonprofit and faith-based community partners served almost 1,000 men and women with a safe, warm place to sleep. If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and you think could be at risk of hypothermia, call the county's non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

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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.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, 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 Hambrook 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.hambrookholistichealing.co/>