



City Mourns Death of Police Sgt. Moskowitz

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Black bunting is draped across the police station, while a floral memorial adorns this police car in honor of Sgt. George Phillip Moskowitz, 57, who died Dec. 31 after suffering a medical emergency while on duty.

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City Mourns Death of Police Sgt. Moskowitz

Funeral services are set for this Saturday.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax Police Department, City residents, friends and relatives are mourning the loss of Sgt. George Phillip Moskowitz, 57, who died Dec. 31 after suffering a medical emergency while on duty.

According to Police Chief Erin Schaible, one of his colleagues found him unconscious in the police station's locker room, late that afternoon, called for help and immediately started performing CPR on him. Other officers also rushed to lend a hand and used an automated external defibrillator (AED). Fire Department EMTs responded, as well, but were unable to revive Moskowitz.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, Jan. 1, the Police Department's public information officer, Sgt. Matthew Lasowitz, posted on the department's Facebook page: "It is with great sadness that we mourn the unexpected loss of Sgt. George Moskowitz, [who] suffered from a medical emergency while on duty yesterday. Sgt. Moskowitz was an eight-year vet with our department after he retired from a distinguished career with the Fairfax County Police Department.

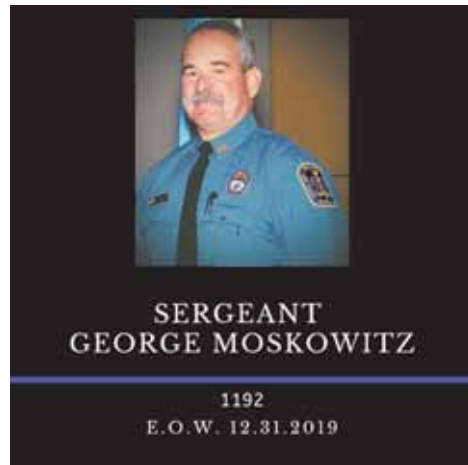
"The outpouring of support and condolences has been amazing and comforting," continued Lasowitz. "We welcome anyone that wishes to show support or offer personal condolences to stop by our station at 3730 Old Lee Hwy. A cruiser has been placed in his honor out front."

He further noted that, "In an effort to assist Sgt. Moskowitz's family during this difficult time," the City of Fairfax Police Assn. set up a Go Fund Me account. Lasowitz, who's also the Association's treasurer, posted the link to it so anyone who wishes to donate may do so by going to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/george-moskowitz-memorial>. People may also leave comments there.

Moskowitz served with the Fairfax County Police Department for a quarter century, retiring as a second lieutenant. He then joined the ranks of Fairfax City's police in 2011 as a school resource officer (SRO). Moskowitz was later promoted to sergeant in 2016 and assigned to patrol. He was a patrol supervisor until his most recent assignment in the department's Community Services Division. He would have been 58 in February.

"Sgt. George Moskowitz was a dedicated, law-enforcement officer who served the communities of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax for over 30 years," said Schaible. "He was a leader, mentor and a friend. He will be deeply missed by his family, his co-workers and the community."

Last Thursday, Jan. 2, the City of Fairfax



Sgt. George Moskowitz. In police terminology, E.O.W. means "end of watch" – the day of an officer's death.



Sgt. Moskowitz served eight years as a Fairfax City police officer.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Black bunting is draped across the police station, while a floral memorial adorns this police car in Sgt. Moskowitz's honor.

flag was lowered to half-staff at all municipal buildings in the City, out of respect for and in honor of Moskowitz. And community members and colleagues have placed bouquets of flowers around the cruiser outside the police station as a memorial to him.

Funeral services for Moskowitz will be held this Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m., at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. in Fairfax. All are welcome to attend; there will be no graveside service.

The City of Fairfax issued the following, official statement in regard to his death:

"Mayor David Meyer and the members of the Fairfax City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of Sgt. Moskowitz. [His] passing is a great loss to the City, and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, his daughters and his son. We are fortunate that he chose to continue his distinguished career in law enforcement with the City of Fairfax Police Department after working with the Fairfax County Police Department for 25 years. We share this loss with both police departments.

"We are grateful for the difference Sgt. Moskowitz made in the lives of City school

children as a school resource officer, to the citizens of the City of Fairfax as a dedicated and talented police officer, and for his camaraderie with officers in our City police department and with other law-enforcement professionals throughout the Northern Virginia region."

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE – friends, acquaintances, residents and law-enforcement personnel alike – have also posted comments on the City Police Department's Facebook page. They offered comfort and condolences to Moskowitz's family and recalled fond memories of him.

For example, Matt Joe wrote, "George was my first boss with FCPD, 17 years ago. We were a squad of know-nothing rookies on midnight shift. He was always so patient and helpful with us. We could call him up after royally screwing up some scene, and you could just about hear that glorious mustache smiling on the other end of the phone. He'd come out, get things sorted and never made us feel foolish."

Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid wrote, "Our thoughts and prayers to his

"Rest in peace, brother, and thank you for your service."

—John Styles,
a retired Virginia State
Police officer

family and to our brothers and sisters at City of Fairfax PD."

And, added Michael G. Duncan Jr., "We were lucky to know and work with George. He was a wonderful police officer and friend. I feel fortunate to have known him. Rest in Peace."

Lynn Coulter called Moskowitz "a man of few words. He was always in good spirits. I remember when he first came to the department after he retired from Fairfax County PD. He wanted to work where he lived. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to his family."

"It was an absolute honor to have worked alongside George," wrote Lisa Gardner. "He was an incredibly kind soul. I'll never forget you, Sarge. We love you always. My deepest sympathy to his family. We are here for anything you need."

Also responding was former City Councilman Dan Drummond. "So sorry for the loss of this great guy," he wrote. "In addition to being a police officer and family man, George was also a fantastic basketball player, having played on Legends teams for a number of years. I was fortunate enough to have played with him. He will be deeply missed by many."

"Rest in peace, brother, and thank you for your service," wrote John Styles, a retired Virginia State Police officer. "Prayers for your family and friends. Heroes live forever, because blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Meanwhile, Joe Goodwin described Moskowitz as "a fair cop who always dealt straight with people. My condolences to his family, as well as [to] those who knew him." And Carol Lavery called him "such a comfort to see in our building when he served as our SRO at Fairfax High. Praying for his loved ones."

"Thoughts and prayers to the Moskowitz family," added Kathy Sutphin. "They have been my neighbors for years and I am totally shocked, hearing this news. A loving husband and a devoted father to his children. My heart is just broken."

Kristin Wood's remarks addressed both Moskowitz and others in the law-enforcement field. "I'm so very sorry for your loss; he sounds like he was a remarkable officer and man," she wrote. "All of you are heroes, serving the community regardless of the weather, the holiday or the danger. Thank you for all you do."

OPINION

Promises Kept

BY U.S. REP. GERALD E. CONNOLLY (D-VA)



In 2018, Democrats reclaimed our majority in the House of Representatives with a promise to deliver on bold, progressive solutions to the most pressing issues we face as a nation. Now, one year into the 116th Congress, that promise has been kept.

The House approved more than 400 pieces of legislation last year alone, more than 275 of which are bipartisan. Each of these bills is important and many are even life-changing, but there are several that are particularly worth highlighting.^o

I cannot go anywhere in our community without hearing how access to healthcare is affecting people's lives. While the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion have increased access, Virginians are still struggling with skyrocketing prescription drug prices. That is why I am so proud the House passed the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, legislation that will lower prescription drug costs by increasing competition and would allow Medicare to renegotiate lower prices for more than 250 prescription drugs.

Conversations about our gun violence crisis are equally unavoidable. Like far too many communities across America, Northern Virginia is no stranger to the pain and loss wrought by mass shootings. I was Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during the Virginia Tech massacre. I, like so many of our neighbors, will never forget the six young people we buried in the wake of that horrific day.

We need to pass gun control that makes our

None of us came to Congress to impeach a president, but each of us took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

communities safer. That is why I was so proud the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and the Enhanced Background Checks Act. These long overdue bills would close

dangerous loopholes and ensure that no American can purchase a gun without first clearing a federal background check. We are in the middle of a national crisis, and this legislation is the least we can do to address it.

We have also had important successes for our region — particularly for federal employees. Thanks to Democratic efforts, we finally secured 12 weeks of paid parental leave and a 3.1 percent pay raise for federal employees. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, I successfully led the fight to stop the Trump administration's disastrous proposal to abolish the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). We secured back pay for federal employees following the President's damaging 35-day shutdown, and I held a hearing on the need to provide equal protections for federal contract workers.

Of course, despite our achievements, the last several months of 2019 were not easy for the Congress or the country. None of us came to Congress to impeach a president, but each of us took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. That oath demanded we take action in the face of unprecedented wrongdoing by an out-of-control executive. To extort a foreign country to investigate your political opponent is an unconstitutional abuse of power. To solicit foreign inter-

ference in an American election is an unconstitutional abuse of power. And the delicate balance of power that underpins our democracy is threatened when a President disregards the Constitution by obstructing Congress to cover up these unconstitutional abuses of power.^o

Impeachment is a uniquely serious issue, but it isn't the only issue. Through even the most difficult moments, our legislative work never stopped. Last month, the House voted on a bipartisan basis to replace NAFTA with the United States - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA). After months of tough negotiating, Democrats secured a deal that includes the strongest enforcement mechanisms of any U.S. trade agreement, as well as critical victories for workers, lower prescription drug costs, and much-needed environmental protections. We also adopted a bipartisan appropriations agreement to fully fund the government for fiscal year 2020.

These successes are a reminder of the incredible progress our country can make. But they also bring into focus the stark reality that the House of Representatives cannot make laws on its own. Leader McConnell has unilaterally blocked the Senate from debating and voting on 80 percent of the bills that we in the House have sent to his desk — most of them bipartisan, and all of them worthy of consideration. His failure of leadership, however, will not deter us from doing the business of the American people.^{oo}

As we say goodbye to 2019, you can rest assured that we will build upon the progress we've made and continue to hold the Trump administration accountable in the New Year.

2019 By the Numbers

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



The past year was a great year here, and as a numbers guy, here are a few of the many highlights I would like to share with you:

❖ In 2019, Fairfax County recycled over 3 million pounds of clean glass with the new Purple Bin Program with plans in place to start true glass to glass recycling in 2020.

❖ We started a pilot program with two non-profit partners modeled after the "There's a Better Way" program to provide the dignity of work for people who are unemployed and between housing to clean up our streams.

❖ Our police department collected over 4,694 pounds of unused prescription drugs in the fight to prevent and end opioid addiction, with many police stations participating in two Drug Take Back Days.

❖ We had over 1,500 students engage with over 100 businesses to find their first job at our annual Fairfax County Teen Job and Opportunity Fairs.

❖ In the summer, over 2,500 people enjoyed the Free Concert in the Park Series at one of

the state's premiere parks, Burke Lake Park, with shows by local artists and opening acts by local high school students.

❖ Members of the West Springfield community celebrated the completed renovation of West Springfield High School with over 2,000 students benefiting from better lighting, improved

science classrooms, learning labs, and better gymnasium space.

❖ The Board adopted the plan for the SHAPE the Future of Aging plan which will update the award winning 50+ Community Action Plan to address the challenges of growing older adult population that now makes up over 25% of the County including initiatives to address isolation, dementia and mobility.

❖ We are moving forward on over \$460M worth of transportation improvement projects in Springfield District, including:

❖ Fairfax County Parkway Widening Project including a grade separated interchange at the Popes Head intersection,

❖ Widening Route 29 between Union Mill Road & Buckleys Gate

❖ Widening Route 28 between Prince William County & Lee Highway

❖ Widening Rolling Road between Old Keene Mill Road & Hunter Village Dr.

❖ Eliminating the dangerous curve on Burke Road

❖ Numerous bicycle and pedestrian projects

❖ I was honored to be reelected as Springfield District Supervisor and to be named Sun Gazette's Best Public Servant in Fairfax County for the third year in a row.

As we welcome in 2020, we have a lot to be proud of, a lot of challenges to address and a lot of work to be done to make Fairfax County a better place for all our residents. I look forward to working with you in the new year. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at 703-451-8873 or Springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov if I can be of service to you.

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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NEWS

City Acknowledges Blaine-Stewart's Service

At the outset of its Dec. 10 meeting, the Fairfax City Council recognized Judi Blaine-Stewart for her two decades of service to the City. For the past 22 years, she's served on the Board of Equalization to resolve citizens' appeals of their real-estate assessments.

She's also a talented bagpiper and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Her husband Brian was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout

Troop 187, and both their sons achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Now, though, the family is moving to North Carolina.

Presenting Blaine-Stewart with a proclamation from the City, Mayor David Meyer said, "We will miss their presence among us. We can't do anything without our volunteers. They're crucial to us accomplishing our mission."

—BONNIE HOBBS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are Brian and Judi Blaine-Stewart and David Meyer.



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WELLBEING

Giving up alcohol during "Dry January" can have positive health benefits.



PHOTO BY
MARILYN CAMPBELL

Dry January?

The benefits of and strategies for taking a month-long booze break.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

After a season filled with Champagne, Whiskey Sours, Gingerbread Martinis and other libations, some might need a break from booze. Dry January, a public health campaign that encourages giving up alcohol until the first of February – can help with that effort. The health benefits of staying dry for a month range from thinner thighs to a fatter wallet.

"It's very common for people to come home after a stressful day and unwind with a glass of wine or two," said Alexandria-based substance abuse counselor Sarah Brewer, Ph.D. "But the reality is that while alcohol does seem to make you more relaxed at first, it can lead to anxiety or a depressed mood."

Weight loss can be a pleasant side effect of abstaining from an evening pour, says nutritionist Kathryn Armstrong, who cites a report by the National Institutes of Health that showed a strong link between weight gain and alcohol. "Basically, the cocktail or wine that you're drinking has empty calories," she said. "Also, many people tend to eat, especially junk food when they drink."

"Another benefit of being alcohol-free for a month is that people often find that they don't need that glass of wine to relax and unwind from a stressful day," added Brewer. "Giving up alcohol for a month might give you an opportunity to find explore other relaxation methods like meditation or going for a walk or some other type of exercise."

For those who regularly attend happy hours with friends or have a glass of wine to relax, abstaining during one of the longest months of the year might seem unpleasant or unappealing, says Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. "You might find things to distract you," she said. "If you're used to having a drink or going to a happy hour at the same time every day, you can schedule something else during that time so you're mind isn't on alcohol. People who enjoy the taste of alcohol might try eating fruit or drinking a fruit flavored sparkling water."

"If you're used to having a drink or going to a happy hour at the same time every day, you can schedule something else during that time so you're mind isn't on alcohol."

— Carol Barnaby, LCSW

"By not drinking you might find that you've been using alcohol to help deal with other issues like depression, PTSD or anxiety. In those cases you should get help from a medical or mental health professional."

— Sarah Brewer, Ph.D.

Attempting to take a break from alcohol might unmask deeper issues, suggests Brewer.

"If you find that you can't stop drinking, it could mean that you have a problem with alcohol consumption," she said. "By not drinking you might find that you've been using alcohol to help deal with other issues like depression, PTSD or anxiety. In those cases you should get help from a medical or mental health professional."

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ONGOING

Oculus: A Place of Unseen. Now thru Feb. 2. At The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents the interactive exhibit Oculus: Of A Place Unseen featuring works of artists Elaine Buss, Edgar Endress, Michelle Repiso and Steve Wanna. The use of the word 'oculus,' most known as an eye-like form in architecture, gestures towards the enlightening narratives discovered throughout the show. Each referencing feelings of solitude and contemplation, the storylines range from institutional boundaries to societal oversights and mantra meditations. Some works are as light as silk, some as heavy as stone, but the overall space is quiet — both literally and figuratively.

JAN. 10 TO MARCH 10

St. James Intramural High School Basketball League. At the St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, 6805 Industrial Road, Springfield. The St. James invites you to participate in its Middle School Basketball League for Boys & Girls (8th to 12th grade), Jan. 10- March 10, in the new 33,000 square foot Basketball Courthouse on four high school regulation sized courts. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball League registration fee is \$250 per player and \$600 per team. All games are officiated and statistics provided. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball league also includes a Playoff round where top teams in the league will meet. Visit <https://www.thestjames.com/sports/basketball/sessions/8/courses/tsj-basketball-winter-team> or contact Alpha or Pele with any questions at 703-239-6841.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

Jewish Music Portraits. 7:30 p.m. At Pozez JCC, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Commemorating five years since the "Je Suis Juif" movement in France, Les Chansons Juives, Portraits of Jewish Music in France celebrates the enduring connections between French and Jewish musical traditions in Europe and North Africa. In addition to music by Jonas and Attia, this concert highlights compositions from different French and Jewish liturgical traditions. Some of the music originates in Bordeaux, Provence, Carpentras, and Bayonne, as well as the unforgettable Paris. A number of the compositions were selected and orchestrated by Hazzan Dr. Tasat from Solomon Foy. Concert followed by Q&A. Tickets: \$25. For tickets, visit <https://chansons.bpt.me>

SATURDAY, JAN. 11 AND TUESDAY JAN. 14

Winter Art Lessons for Youth Classes (8 yrs & up). Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Tuesday 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more. Call 703-250-6930.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11 AND TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Winter Art Workshop for Teens/Adults. Saturday 10:30-12:30 p.m.; Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush & portfolio development. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more. Call 703-250-6930.

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Clown Class. 12-1:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-4, Room 409, Lorton. Five weeks. Exploring clown traditions from all over the world; from Japanese masked theatre to tricksters in the American Southwest to cartoons and silent cinema, students will work through improvisational exercises that focus on the connection with the audience as well as deep emotional connectivity by performing exercises and games that are constructed to build skills and techniques that are applicable to many differing performance venues and disciplines. Tuition is \$130. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/>



Jewish Music Portraits will be held Saturday, Jan. 11 at Pozez JCC in Fairfax.

Jewish Music Portraits Concert

Saturday/Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. At Pozez JCC, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Commemorating five years since the "Je Suis Juif" movement in France, Les Chansons Juives, Portraits of Jewish Music in France celebrates the enduring connections between French and Jewish musical traditions in Europe and North Africa. In addition to music by Jonas and Attia, this concert highlights compositions from different French and Jewish liturgical traditions. Some of the music originates in

Bordeaux, Provence, Carpentras, and Bayonne, as well as the unforgettable Paris. A number of the compositions were selected and orchestrated by Hazzan Dr. Tasat from Solomon Foy. Concert followed by Q&A. Tickets: \$25. For tickets, visit <https://chansons.bpt.me>



The Alonzo King LINES Ballet will appear at GMU Center for the Arts on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet

Saturday/Jan. 25, 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Since 1982, visionary choreographer Alonzo King has been redefining contemporary ballet by creating daring new works that marry the science of artistic movement with the beauty of other art forms. In his latest collaboration, Figures of Speech, King addresses the fact that languages of the world are vanishing at an alarming rate, and draws on the research of poet and activist Bob Holman, pioneer in the slam poetry movement and co-founder of the Endangered Language Alliance. His expressive choreography takes inspiration from a soundtrack of poetry recited by native speakers of languages nearing extinction and music played on traditional instruments. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

[reservations.workhousearts.org/Info.aspx?EventID=50](https://www.workhousearts.org/Info.aspx?EventID=50)
Personal Tour Day. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come have a day at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Let the knowledgeable docents provide personal tours or download the Uniguide Audio Tour and explore the rich local history of the Fairfax Station. Tours of the Museum will be held every 30 minutes. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older \$5; Seniors 65 and older and active or retired Military, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.
Sousa Season Opener. 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. Presenting "The American Offenbach: Sousa and the Operetta" by The President's Own

Marine Band. Concerts are free, no tickets required unless otherwise noted. Visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

Art at Lake Accotink. 10 a.m. to noon. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. With a focus on drawing, participants will gain fundamental skills with different artistic mediums and take home a nature-themed project at the end of each class. These classes are designed for children age 7 to 12. The cost is \$24 per person, plus a supply fee of \$2 payable to the instructor at class. Call 703-569-3464 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Winter Drawing Plus Color Class (5-8 yrs.). 6:15 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at Woods Community

Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor. Visit www.czartlessons.com for more.

JAN. 16-19

Shen Yun. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Show times are Thursday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. Prices starting at \$80. Shen Yun's artistic vision expands theatrical experience into a multi-dimensional, inspiring journey through one of humanity's greatest treasures—the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture. This epic production immerses you in stories reaching back to the most distant past. You'll explore realms even beyond our visible world. Featuring one of the world's oldest art forms— classical Chinese dance—along with patented scenographic effects and all-original orchestral works, Shen Yun opens a portal to a civilization of enchanting beauty and enlightening wisdom.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

G-Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society "WVMGRS" members will have a display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Give Together. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Give Together, a signature program of Volunteer Fairfax, helps to foster a legacy of volunteerism in the generations to come. The program recognizes MLK Day as a day of service bringing families together to work on projects that benefit the community. The event is free and encourages families of elementary school-age children to participate. Volunteer with your children to work on service projects benefitting the community. Together, you'll create Valentine's cards for youth in foster care, prepare cat adoption kits, assemble snack packs for food insecure children, create fleece lap blankets for veterans and more. Registration is required. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org, click events, then click Give Together.

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

ESL Registration. 7-8 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church's two locations: 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, and 13421 Twinlakes Dr., Clifton. Register for ESL classes in Fairfax or Clifton/Centreville on Jan. 23. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., January 28-April 2. Cost is \$40 for student text book. Visit the website: www.lordoflifeva.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Alonzo King LINES Ballet. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Since 1982, visionary choreographer Alonzo King has been redefining contemporary ballet by creating daring new works that marry the science of artistic movement with the beauty of other art forms. In his latest collaboration, Figures of Speech, King addresses the fact that languages of the world are vanishing at an alarming rate, and draws on the research of poet and activist Bob Holman, pioneer in the slam poetry movement and co-founder of the Endangered Language Alliance. His expressive choreography takes inspiration from a soundtrack of poetry recited by native speakers of languages nearing extinction and music played on traditional instruments. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Game Day Activities. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. There will be train-related games for all ages and you can win a prize if you play. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and active or retired Military, \$4. Visit the website:

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Cutting the ribbon are (from left), City treasurer Tom Scibilia, Council members So Lim and Michael DeMarco, Mayor David Meyer, Dave Omary, Page Johnson, Kelly Seungyon, and Sharon Ricciardi with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

Historic Fairfax Building Houses a New Business

Biltmore Design Galleria opens in Old Town.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With nearly two decades of experience in commercial and residential kitchen, closet and bathroom design/remodeling, Biltmore Design Galleria has already amassed a stellar reputation in Chantilly. And now, local residents may also avail themselves of this business's expertise since it recently opened a second location in Old Town Fairfax.

And owners Dave Omary and wife Kelly Seungyon didn't choose just any building in which to set up shop. They selected the historic Sauls House, which holds special meaning for Fairfax City Commissioner of the Revenue Page Johnson.

"My great aunt, Mary Sauls, lived in this house and ran a boarding house here," he said, during the new business's grand opening at 10381 Main St. "And I'm glad to see that they've kept the integrity of the building."

Also pleased to welcome Biltmore Design Galleria to the City was Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "For this business to come and have a presence in this City speaks volumes about our commitment to businesses that are filling a niche," he said. "People can come to places like this and get exactly what they want."

He said customers reap the benefits of the owners' expertise, while having their interior design customized. And besides that, added Meyer, "It's important that we have a design-build business in this cool, 127-year-old building."

Noting that Biltmore Design Galleria has been in business for 18 years, Danette Nguyen, with the City's



From left, Danette Nguyen and Police Chief Erin Schaible chat during the grand-opening reception.

Economic Development Office, said, "The owners believe everyone should have their dream kitchen, bathroom and closets. And now that they have their Fairfax City location, they're able to make these dreams a reality."

"We're excited to be here," said Omary. "We chose this area because we like the City's downtown. I like to support the City and have our business in a small town where everyone knows each other." He said he'll make sure things are running smoothly at both their locations, but his wife is the designer.

"We help people with the color and design of their cabinets, floors, paints, etc.," he explained. "We don't charge for design or measuring, just for the work and materials."

Delighted by the turnout at the grand opening, Omary said, "I see the mayor, Council members and City representatives here, plus old friends and customers, which means a lot. This is amazing to see everyone here to support us."

Biltmore Design Galleria is open Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, by appointment only. Phone 571-340-3566.



PHOTO BY MELISSA SHINABERRY

Animal advocates and animal control officers join Fairfax City Mayor and Councilman for signing city ordinance requiring permits for pet stores. Seated — Michael DeMarco, Councilman; David Meyer, Mayor; standing — animal advocates, Giovanna DiBiccari, Susan Laume, Tim Parmly, Sue Bell and Lori Huberman-Hayes; Fairfax Animal Control Officer Terry Carroll.

City Tightens Pet Shop Regulations

BY SUSAN LAUME

The city of Fairfax enacted a new ordinance on Monday, Jan. 6, which requires pet shops to obtain a permit before opening an operation to sell companion animals in the city. In a signing ceremony, with animal control officers and animal advocates participating, Mayor David Meyer signed the ordinance into law in the city council chambers, effective the same day, on Jan. 6. The ordinance, championed by animal welfare groups, had unanimous acceptance by the city council. Their action makes Fairfax the first northern Virginia locality to join over 300 other municipalities across the nation in tightening pet store regulations. Actions taken in response to on-going health and consumer protection issues with pet stores selling dogs, cats, and rabbits. Fairfax was the focus of national attention in 2019 when an undercover investigation by an animal protection group discovered dead rabbits and a puppy in the freezer of the Petland-Fairfax pet store. Petland employees in the store reported that rabbits which became sick were permitted to die instead of receiving veterinary care. The store lost its national franchise and was closed shortly after the undercover story surfaced. Following a six month long investigation by Fairfax animal control police, the two managers were charged with multiple counts of cruelty. Their



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Mayor David Meyer signed pet store permit ordinance into law.

case will be heard in Fairfax District Court on Jan. 14. The Petland-Fairfax store had been problematic since 2013 with consumers alleging receipt of sick puppies and fraudulent business practices. One puppy purchased there, lent its name to a State law in 2014, mandating consumer protections for pet store customers, Bailey's Law. State law gives little authority to localities to regulate pet stores. However, State law does allow localities to establish a permit requirement for pet shops and dealers. Before signing the ordinance, Mayor Meyer commented, "animals don't have a voice and their beauty and their gift to creation and to us, is sometimes elusive to those only seeing a dollar sign. So this legislation, É..and everyone who's standing here É. says they have a value far beyond a monetary calculation."

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Steam Day. 3-5 p.m. At Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Tinker, experiment, create, and explore with Gesher JDS and PJ Library. Join in a free afternoon of around-the-world family fun. Your child's curiosity will take them to new and far-away places when they experience science, technology, engineering, art, math with hands-on projects for kids aged 3-8 and their parents. Free. RSVP at: https://www.gesher-jds.org/steam-day/

BHS General Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. View a film on the history of Burke's Lee Chapel, with some accompanying remarks by Rev. Katie Carson Phillips and Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana. Free. Visit the website: www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique "concerts with commentary" format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100th anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75th of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy's Clair de Lune and Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor as well as colorful Preludes by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

Troop Open House. 7-8:30 p.m. At Wood Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Scouts BSA Troop 1345G will host an Open House for young women (ages 11-17) interested in learning more about Scouting and its focus on outdoor adventure, leadership development, and citizenship skills. Free. Visit the website: http://www.troop1345.org

Beau Soir Ensemble Performs. 7 p.m. At Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola, and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire spanning a variety of genres. Free. Call 703-293-6227.

JAN. 31-FEB. 1

The Mason Cabaret in Concert.

Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. A perennial favorite, the Musical Theater ambassadors, the Mason Cabaret, return with a fresh line-up of stellar vocalists offering showstoppers, ballads and duets, delving into the music of George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Harold Arlen, and many more. This "Fun-raiser" supports the Musical Theater program at Mason and will have you dancing in your seats and humming all the way home. Tickets are \$30 General Public; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. In this world premiere, Mason Artist-in-Residence Bill T. Jones examines group identity and its relationship to aloneness set to spoken word and live music. What Problem? includes



Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel will be presented Jan. 26 at GMU Center for the Arts.

three thought-provoking sections: Jones in solo performance; Jones alongside members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; and, in conclusion, Jones and the company onstage with participants from the greater Northern Virginia community. For more than 35 years, the landmark Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company has revolutionized modern dance while exploring issues of identity through social commentary. Tickets are \$48, \$41, and \$29. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. Violinist Simone Porter is the virtuoso soloist in Vivaldi's dazzlingly imaginative evocation of the sights, sounds and sensations of the Italian seasons. The Four Seasons violin concertos are so richly detailed you can feel the sirocco of summer, hear the dancing villagers of Autumn and slip on the ice of a Venetian winter. The master of the New Tango, Astor Piazzolla, brought the wild dance of Buenos Aires into the concert hall. There's an apt nod to Vivaldi in Leonid Desyatnikov's sensational string arrangements of the Estaciones Porteñas, but they have an atmosphere that's unique to Buenos Aires – fiercely sensual in summer, hazy and melancholic in winter, all moving to the heartbeat of the tango. Vivaldi's seasons enfold Piazzolla's in this dance around the year. Prices begin at \$25; \$15 for students. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Country-Western Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. at AUUC, Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 15-16

Virginia Opera's "Cinderella." 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Gioachino Rossini's Cinderella (La Cenerentola) is one of his funniest and best-known comic operas. Following on his success of The Barber of Seville, Rossini and librettist Jacopo Ferretti worked day and night to create this opera in just

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel

Sunday/Jan. 26, 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique "concerts with commentary" format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100th anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75th of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy's Clair de Lune and Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor as well as colorful Preludes by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

three weeks. The story differs somewhat from the classic fairytale: there is no fairy godmother, magic pumpkin, or even a glass slipper! Even so, this enchanting tale delivers with all of the glimmering splendor, the comic characters, and the happy ending, of course. Best of all, it includes Rossini's effervescent score with the epic orchestral storm before the Prince finally finds Cenerentola, and the arias "Miei rampolli femminini," and "Nacqui all' affanno...Non piu mesta." Directed by Kyle Lang. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Tickets are \$45-\$115. Visit the website: www.cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Off the Wall. 2-5 p.m. At the Art and Design Building, GMU Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. Every year GMU opens its Art and Design Building to alumni, parents, prospective students, and the public for a showcase of the visual arts at Mason. Tour 15 open studios and hands-on exhibits with student and faculty artists, enjoy the music, plus create your own works of art - it's a great party. Cost is \$30/regular; \$20/Mason alumni, faculty and staff; \$10/ages 14-18. Ticket and sponsorship proceeds support arts scholarships and guest artist residencies. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. Contact Emily Rusch at 703-993-3872 or erusch2@gmu.edu. Visit the website: offthewall.gmu.edu.

National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine

8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating their Jubilee 100th concert season, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (NSOU) presents a concert of Eastern European delights, including a showpiece for cello by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius' first symphony which displays his unique Nordic style as well as his admiration for Tchaikovsky, and Ukrainian composer Borys Lyatoshynsky's symphonic ballade composed as a tribute to the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz on the centenary of his death. Considered one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe, NSOU has achieved international recognition with its extensive touring schedule and more than 100 acclaimed recordings, including Lyatoshynsky's Symphonies No. 2 and No. 3 named The Best Recording of the Year by the Australian Broadcasting Company. Under the direction of Volodymyr Sirenko, the orchestra is joined by world-renowned cellist Natalia Khoma as the featured soloist. Tickets are \$60, \$51, \$36. Visit the website: https://cfa.gmu.edu/

Performing Arts Teacher Swap

On Monday, Jan. 13, the entire Performing Arts Department teaching staff – theater, band, chorus and orchestra – at both Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High will swap places for the day. The goal is to highlight their united front, showcase the arts in their schools and bring to light the success and significance of their programs.

“Advocating for our programs in this way will not just garner the attention of our students, but potential stakeholders, as well,” said Fairfax High Theater Director Erich DiCenzo. “In addition, this experience will be a great recruiting tool for the high-school teachers, plus an opportunity for observation and reflection by the middle-school teachers. It will also enable them to catch up with several of their previous students.”

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.

MONDAY/JAN. 13

Effective Strategies for Dementia

Caregivers. 7-8:30 p.m. At Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Explore how communication changes when someone is living with Alzheimer's, and identify strategies to help you communicate at each stage of the disease. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association. Light refreshments provided. Free. Visit the website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

GROW AND PLANT UNDERWATER GRASSES

Volunteers are needed across Virginia to restore native underwater grasses by growing them at home, school, or work through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Grasses for the Masses program. These wild celery grasses grow underwater in Virginia's tidal rivers and offer many benefits for both wildlife and clean water. While submerged grasses in Virginia have been seriously depleted by pollution, they are beginning to make a comeback.

To participate, volunteers must attend one of several upcoming workshops in the area. Volunteers then grow grasses from seed in trays submerged in the provided tubs. They nurture these grass sprouts until late spring, when they will transplant their grasses to restoration sites in the James, Rappahannock, Chickahominy, and Potomac rivers. Advance registration is required. Participants will receive a self-contained indoor growing kit, seeds, and instructions at any of the following workshops:

❖ In Northern Virginia, on Jan. 22 at Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax and on Feb. 2 and Feb. 8 at Alexandria ReNew Enterprises; there is a \$40 fee per grass growing kit. Visit www.cbf.org/grassesworkshops.

BRITEPATHS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths is seeking volunteers to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with families who have demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a December holiday meal and/or gifts for children under 18. Britepaths also has a great need for cash donations and gift cards to grocery stores or Target/Walmart to assist those who are not sponsored. A wonderful family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at: britepaths.org. Contact 703-273-8829 or sryan@britepaths.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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OMG



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Are you sitting down? I wasn't when I got the call from my oncologist after hours this past Thursday. He was calling me with the results from the previous week's biopsy. He said he had "exciting news." He said the biopsy was not only "typed" (genetic mutation/biomarker) but, as he continued to bury the lead using medical jargon about the slide and stain, finally got around to it: I may not have (or have had, still to be discussed/possibly determined) non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Instead, I may have (always had) thyroid cancer, specifically, papillary thyroid cancer, referred to as "the friendly cancer," by my oncology nurse the following infusion when I shared with her these preliminary findings. 'Friendly' referring to one's survival/life expectancy after diagnosis.

Moving forward to begin/confirm this new working diagnosis, I had an ultrasound of my thyroid the next day and Friday the following week, Team Lourie will be meeting with an endocrinologist. She (I saw her picture on the wall outside her office) presumably will have had a discussion, or at the very least, received an email/referral from my oncologist citing chapter and a few verses about who I am, how I've been treated, what scan/results I've had and of course, the news of this most recent biopsy, explaining why he reached out. I really don't expect, given my oncologist's excitement, and the fact that he called me (only the second time in nearly 11 years) that the endocrinologist will be likewise informed and possibly even excited to share a similar diagnosis with a previously-characterized as "terminal" patient who (yours truly) might not be "terminal" after all. 'Might not' being the operative phrase I'm still having difficulty grasping.

Somehow, I have to slow my roll and pull back on the reins. We're still early days here. Right now, I don't know anything definitive, so I'm not quite ready to call this a "Festivus miracle." Though at present it all sounds fairly promising, it's not exactly cast in stone, and neither has a revised Thyroid-cancer-treatment plan been put in place. I'm still a lung cancer "diagnosis" and one still waiting for the other shoe to drop. Therefore, until I'm told otherwise, as of now, I'm scheduled for my bi-weekly opdivo immunotherapy infusion on Jan. 3, 2020.

Now, why all of this is worth writing about, prematurely as it is, is that oncologists, almost by definition, are typically not the bearer of "exciting news." Generally speaking, they are giving bad news and saying it very directly at that. As was said to me in late February 2009: "Why not take that vacation you've always dreamed of while you're still feeling good?" The implication being quite clear that it's likely to get worse from here. To receive a call like I did Thursday from my oncologist now implying that it might get better from here is completely out of the ordinary. Moreover, if he initiated such a communication, I should probably take him at his words and take him very seriously.

Right now, I am possibly elated to be over the moon. However, it's not as if I've been given a clean bill of health. Cleaner, yes, but one still with a significant balance. And until I look the endocrinologist in her stethoscope and hear some magic words, I am keeping my powder dry and not shouting off my mouth - too much.

Cancer is a funny business. There are twists and turns and unexpected results, much of it not controlled by the doctors. And though I may be on the precipice of being blessed with some amazing, life-altering news, this time for the unbelievably good, I am still a week, maybe even weeks away from knowing with any certainty. In the interim, however, I am certain of one thing. If this change in my status does occur and I'm given back my life expectancy, somehow, I will try and return the favor.

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

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