

Burke CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Lawmakers elected Eileen Filler-Corn as the 56th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and the first woman to hold the role in the 401-year history of the body.

Legislators Reflect on the Week One of the Session

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Speaker Of the House

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CALENDAR

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

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.

All You Need is Love. Now thru Feb. 16. At Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. In celebration of Valentine’s Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of society’s most complex human emotions — Love. In its newest exhibit titled All You Need is &e, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its artists’ interpretations of love. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

St. James Intramural High School Basketball League. Now thru March 10. 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.

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.;



PHOTO BY KRISTIN MATUS-KELSO

Children’s Concert

Lake Braddock Secondary School Chorus students perform songs and dances dressed as your favorite children’s movie characters singing well-known songs.

Jan. 24-25

Children’s Concert. Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 12 p.m. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Annual Children’s Concert presented by the Lake Braddock Choral department. A magical show full of well-known songs performed by your favorite characters. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes if they choose. Concessions will be available for purchase. Autographs and photos with characters following the performances. Cost: \$5 suggested donation or a new toy for Inova Children’s Hospital. Visit the website: lbchorus.org

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.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Valentine’s Challenge. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and 1:30-4:30 p.m. At City of Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Approximately 500 volunteers will gather for the Volunteer Fairfax Annual Valentine’s Challenge. The Challenge this year is to make 6,000 valentines for children in foster care and child protective services in Fairfax County and for youth in college who have recently aged out of foster care through Foster Care to Success. Offering two shifts, Volunteer Fairfax will be accommodating 250 volunteers each, to allow many in the community to join in to support at-risk youth desperately in need of support and encouragement. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org and click

on these opportunities in the community calendar.

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.

MLK Day of Service. In recognition of Dr. King’s message of peace and empowerment, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day has been designated as a national day of service – “a day on, not a day off.” Volunteer Fairfax honors the MLK Day of Service and Dr. King’s legacy locally through Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day. Volunteer Fairfax strives to foster a legacy of volunteerism in the generations to come with our Give Together event. Join your elementary school-aged children to work on service projects benefitting our 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. This event is open to families with children between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. Older teens can be involved by registering as a Teen Event Volunteer. Sign up here: <https://www.volunteerfairfax.org/events/give-together-martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-service> If you have any questions, contact Hollie Gordon; hgordon@volunteerfairfax.org, 703-246-3703.

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

JAN. 24-25

Children’s Concert. Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 12 p.m. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Annual Children’s Concert presented by the Lake Braddock Choral department. A magical show full of well-known songs performed by your favorite characters. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes if they choose. Concessions will be available for purchase. Autographs and photos with characters following the performances. Cost: \$5 suggested donation or a new toy for Inova Children’s Hospital. Visit the website: lbchorus.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: 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/>

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Change in the Landscape

401st VA General Assembly reconvenes with a tsunami of filed legislation.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

When the Virginia General Assembly reconvened for the 60-day 2020 Session, the week opened with a series of firsts. The first time since 1993, Democrats took the reins with a trifecta: In the 2019 election, they garnered decisive majorities in the House of Delegates and state Senate, with a Democratic governor.

Women rose to power in numbers and leadership positions. Gov. Ralph Northam announced the new 'Virginia 2020 Plan', and with it said, "The landscape has changed."

For the first time in a long time, Republicans could not stop the Democrats from advancing landmark legislation such as the Equal Rights Amendment, gun policies and climate control measures. Democratic legislators, many from the Fairfax County delegation filed bills and resolutions, rallying in support of the 2020 Plan.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7 - With Speaker-designee Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), incoming Senate Majority Leader, Richard L. Saslaw (D-35), incoming House Majority Leader Charniele Herring (D-46), and incoming Senate Caucus Chair Mamie Locke (D-2) standing by, Northam talked about his 'Virginia 2020 Plan.' "It's more forward-looking," he said.

The 11-Point Plan includes: pass the ERA; restore women's reproductive rights; ban discrimination in housing and employment; raise the minimum wage; make voting easier with no-excuse early voting and make Election Day a state holiday; reform criminal justice by ceasing suspending driver's licenses for unpaid fines; advance common-sense gun safety measures, universal background checks, "Red Flag" laws, restore one gun a month limits; fight climate change; protect natural resources; increase education funding including free community college for low- and middle-income and people going into high-demand fields with in-state tuition for DREAMers; and expand transit and broadband.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Saslaw (D-35) said they were going to be sure that Virginia became a better place to work and do business.

Speaker-designee Filler-Corn added: "We intend to protect Virginia's greatest assets."

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8 - The Virginia General Assembly officially reconvened. Outside the capitol building, demonstrators aired their concerns — ERA, gun reform, climate change, and more.

Inside, shortly after 1 p.m., applause welcomed Del. Filler-Corn as she entered the House floor before being sworn in as House Speaker by Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Donald W. Lemons. House Speaker Filler-Corn became the first woman and first Jewish person to hold the office.

"This session brings many firsts. We will have the first women of color to lead committees and have a historically diverse group of committee chairs and vice-chairs. And these leaders are Members of the most diverse House of Delegates in Virginia history. This House is not only diverse in terms of race or



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lawmakers elected Eileen Filler-Corn as the 56th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and the first woman to hold the role in the 401-year history of the body. "We were the country's first legislature, and I strongly believe that Virginia can lead — by showing the country the rewards that collaboration can bring," Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn said in her address.

gender. The Members of this House represent a wide range of experience, thought, orientation, religion and backgrounds... The people demanded we act on many areas where Virginia has lagged behind. This House will pass the Equal Rights Amendment. And we will address discrimination in our laws. We will take common sense measures to prevent gun violence and keep Virginians safe. And, we will address the threat that climate change poses to our entire Commonwealth, especially our coastal communities."

Del. David Bulova (D-37), later said, "I couldn't be more proud of my colleague Eileen Filler-Corn, who my wife and I have called friend for more than 20 years."

That evening, Gov. Northam, 73rd Governor of Virginia, delivered the annual State of the Commonwealth address. He highlighted accomplishments and shared his vision to continue building a "stronger, fairer, and more equitable Virginia," he said.

Afterward, Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) tweeted, "This evening, @GovernorVA delivered a resounding message that the state of our Commonwealth is strong! VA is a better place to live and work for so many people. I look forward to the progress the Senate can deliver working with Gov. Northam over the coming months."

Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia Del. Mark Herring tweeted, "I'll be pushing to Decriminalize marijuana Resolve past convictions Move toward legal adult use Pass the ERA Pass common-sense gun safety laws Address the rise in white supremacist violence Stop predatory lending Let's go."

FRIDAY, JAN. 10 - By early morning, the Virginia Legislative Information System posted 2,574 bills and resolutions filed by delegates and senators for the 2020 Session.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Jerry Gold, left, and Gary Falconer weren't golfers before they joined the club.

Golfing at Burke Lake Gets Seniors Out

The Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club is about more than just playing a round of golf.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On the surface, a prerequisite for joining something like the Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club would be to know how to play golf. That wasn't the case for Jerry Gold and Gary Falconer, members of the club that weren't golfers when they joined, but now head the social committee for this club that uses the Burke Lake Golf Course as a social gathering place for seniors more than anything else.

The Burke Lake Golf Course has all the ingredients they need and although it is a public course operated by Fairfax County, the club members developed a sense of community around the course. There is a big club house that serves beer and light foods, the course is only a par-three so walking for a round of golf isn't too strenuous,

and it's not too costly. Perfect for the retired men and women around the Burke area, and being in the club fosters a social aspect that many seniors don't have.

"We're a very inviting group," said Gold.

Course manager Lewis Musolf has seen that too. When a golfer comes in alone, "they get paired up with others and by the end of the day, they come walking in and they're best friends," he said.

One time, while teeing off, one of the club members' ball sliced off and hit Gold in the knee, and while it was painful at the time, "we've been good friends ever since," he said.

The club started in 1982, and the minimum age is 50, so not everyone's retired. There are about 126 people in the club, which includes 80-year-old Ellie Anderson, who takes Uber to

SEE CLUB, PAGE 6



Burke Lake Golf Course is open to all, like Karin Wheeler here lining up a putt on the practice green.

Legislators Reflect on the First Days of the 2020 Session

—MERCIA HOBSON

PHOTOS VIA VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Del. David Bulova (D-37) introduced HB 1012

Early childhood care and education; establishment of system, licensure. “A child’s earliest experiences - and particularly those in the critical years between birth and age five - have lifelong impacts on their likelihood of success. However, according to statistics from the Virginia Department of Education, 40 percent of students entering kindergarten lack the key literacy, math and social emotional skills that predict success. Further, only 25 percent of Virginia’s early childhood programs that receive public funding participate in the state’s voluntary quality measurement system. I am pleased to be carrying House Bill 1012 on behalf of the Governor, which directs the Board of Education to consolidate and simplify Virginia’s early childhood education programs and create a uniform quality rating system for programs that accept public funding. This will improve quality, foster continuous improvement, and help parents better understand their options. As the parent of three children, this is very important to me. I have personally witnessed the difference that a quality pre-school program has made on my children.”



Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33):

My top priority is recovering the local funding for our regional transportation. Today (*Monday - Jan. 13), I cast my first votes on the Senate Judiciary Committee and was able to vote for four life-saving bills to prevent gun violence: universal background checks, giving municipalities local control about allowing firearms in government buildings, a red flag law and restricting gun purchases to one gun a month. Last week I cast my first vote on the Senate Privilege and Elections Committee to make Virginia the 38th state to Ratify the ERA.



Del. Ibraheem Samirah (D-86)-

introduced *HB 152 Middle housing allowed on lots zoned for single-family use.* “Middle housing is defined as two-family residential units, including duplexes, townhouses, cottages, and any similar structure. Such structures shall not require a special use permit or be subjected to any other local requirements beyond those imposed upon other authorized residential uses.” Samirah said, “Across the country, there is a shortage of affordable units that is putting a squeeze on working families and contributing to rises in rents for existing units...I will certainly get pushback for this”



Del. Mark Keam (D-35)

HB 572 Distributed renewable energy; promotes the establishment thereof. Del. Keam said, “This bill would free up the solar market, not only for local governments... but also for residents, businesses, schools, institutions and non-profits that want to install solar for their own use... (It would) remove the rule that limits customers to installing only as big an array as would have served their needs in the past year ... Today, residential customers are penalized with so-called “standby charges” if they install more than 10 kilowatts of solar (enough for a larger home, or a modest home with electric vehicles) ... Many Virginians do not have access to solar at all, especially if they live in rental apartments or condominiums, because the building owners are not allowed to install solar panels and sell the output to tenants. My bill would make this legal.”



ASSEMBLY - WEEK ONE

Highlights of Some of the Bills Proposed

—MERCIA HOBSON

PHOTOS VIA VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sen. J. Chapman Peterson (D-34)

introduced *SB 26 Plastic bags; tax in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* which imposes a five-cent per bag tax on plastic bags provided to customers by certain retailers in localities located wholly within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and directs revenues to be used to support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.



Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)

introduced *SB 436 Establishment of the Virginia Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearms List; penalty.* The bill creates the Virginia Voluntary Do Not Sell Firearms List (the List) that prohibits the possession, transportation and sale of firearms to any person who voluntarily registers himself to be enrolled into the List.



Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67)

introduced *HB 547 Virginia Energy and Economy Transition Council; established, report.* The bill establishes the Virginia Energy and Economy Transition Council, consisting of 28 members, to develop plans to assist the Commonwealth in transitioning from the use of fossil fuel energy to renewable energy by 2050



Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)

introduced *HB 15 Public school buses seat belts.* The bill requires the Board of Education to make regulations to require each new public school bus purchased for the transportation of students to be equipped with a seat belt consisting of a lap belt and shoulder strap or harness in every seat. He also introduced *HB 16 Safety belt system; all occupants of motor vehicles to utilize.*



Write

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314

By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com
On Line: www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter



HOME LIFE STYLE

Beautiful, Bold, Soothing: Classic Blue

Dependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Dependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020. For the past 21 years, Pantone Color Institute has announced a "Color of the Year," which the self-proclaimed authority on color says will be on trend during the year ahead. Local designers share how the color can be used in a home's interior.

"Classic Blue is a beautiful and bold, yet soothing color reminiscent of the evening sky and the deep blue ocean," said Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build in Bethesda, Maryland. "Soft, rich and versatile, this color has the potential to inject creative confidence into your interiors."

From an accent wall in a child's bedroom, throw pillows or a kitchen backsplash to a home's front door, mailbox or shutters, Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist at Case Design/Remodeling suggests a variety of ways to use classic blue. "Perhaps as a ceiling color to draw your eye up or add interest," she said. "As a powder room wall color or vanity, this bold color will work well in the tiniest of spaces including the back of a bookcase or built-in, a reading nook, a laundry room or mudroom or as cubbies."

Whether bold or subtle, St. Claire said the design options are plentiful. "Opt to incorporate this color in your home with decorative accents like throw blankets, pillows, rugs, and artwork and even kitchenware to add a pop of color without feeling



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

A Classic Blue sofa is complemented by other shades of blue in this living room designed by Keira St. Claire



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

For this Arlington, Virginia breakfast room, designer Allie Mann incorporated Pantone's color of the year by using Classic Blue fabric on the chairs, window seat cushion and pillows.

over-saturated," she said. "Repurpose old pieces [or furniture]. A fresh blue lacquered coat of paint would magically transform an old chair or dresser into a unique statement piece."

For the courageous homeowner, St. Claire suggests a bolder approach. "Paint your walls or refinish your kitchen or bathroom cabinets in blue or upholster a large piece of furniture like a sofa or armchair in blue," she said. "Introduce other complementary colors like olive greens, golds or magenta to really offset the color and make a statement. Classic blue doesn't have to be the only pop of color."

Adding the color gradually is what Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, Virginia suggests. "Infuse it into your home and fashion design in bits and pieces," added "Maybe you paint an accent wall classic blue and let that be the focus. The color blue is kind to many colors and

therefore easy to use in a room as an accent color. You can also mix varying shades of blue."

"Classic blue is just that, it's classic and timeless and can be weaved into many design schemes," said Mann. "Do not be afraid of color."



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News

Club for Friendships

FROM PAGE 3

the course, and keeps her clubs behind the counter at the pro shop. Management doesn't mind, and it's that kind of relationship that keeps things lively.

"Golf's not an aerobic sport but it's good to get out and walk," Musolf said.

The golf club has a deal with the course that members of the club staff the positions as starter and marshal throughout the day. The starter sits out front and each golfer has to check in with the starter before starting, and the marshal rides around in a cart to make sure the groups are moving hole to hole, and not backing up the course. In return, they get to play at a senior rate, and talk to people all day. "We get everybody to cross-pollinate whether they like it or not," said Gold. Some volunteers take those skills and volunteer for other Professional Golfers Association tournaments in the area.

Sign Up Here

Joining the club is not too expensive, and they have two annual meetings a year for everyone to participate and catch up with other club members they haven't seen in a while. At the meeting, they have raffles and drawings all day, and most of the items raffled are donated from area businesses that support community activities. The meeting is usually held at PJ Skidoos in Fairfax, so they raffle off a couple of PJ Skidoos meal coupons, meal coupons from Glory Days in Burke, gift cards from Dick's Sporting Goods at Springfield Town Center, or even



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Pull carts are available, but no riding carts except a physically challenged model.

a sweatshirt from the Burke Lake Pro Shop.

"The local community has been fantastic," said Falconer.

The club is always looking for more members, and prospective members can get information at the pro shop about joining. There is no website or social media channels connected with the club, but this is one area they are working on. "It's going to be part of our discussion this year," said Gold.

Teeing Off

The course at Burke Lake has gone through a couple of changes in the last few years. The club house was rebuilt and expanded to a 4,000-square-foot facility with additional seating and food serving capabilities, and the driving range was expanded as well. The putting green was moved and the back nine and front nine were switched around, so what used to be the first tee is now number 10 and the old number 10 tee is now the first tee. The reason for the switch, according to Musolf, was to increase the sales at the snack bar, and increase pedestrian traffic through that area. "Our sales have increased dramatically," he said.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Chairman McKay's Reception. 5-7 p.m. At the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Join the new Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, for the annual New Year Reception. Bring food donations for Stuff the Bus and pet supplies for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

NOVEC SCHOLARSHIPS

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives are offering higher-education scholarships to public, private, and home-schooled high school seniors whose families receive electricity from electric cooperatives. Online applications at novec.com for NOVEC's scholarships are due Sunday, March 15, 2020. VMDAEC applications are due Friday, Feb. 28, 2020. Students may apply to both organizations. The NOVEC Scholarship Program will award \$1,500 college scholarships to 11 qualified graduating public high school students in NOVEC's service territory in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford counties, and the City of Manassas Park. In addition, the overall outstanding student will receive the \$1,500 J. Manley Garber Scholarship, for a total of \$3,000 in college assistance. For more information about the NOVEC Scholarship Program, contact Ashley Arnold at scholarships@novec.com.

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

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.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. **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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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mis- takes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

Still Waiting for "Canswers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I half expected, with my oncologist out on vacation this week, he and the endocrinologist didn't speak. As a result, after sitting in the examining chair, the first question the doctor asks is "So you have thyroid cancer?" I snickered and said something like "Hopefully," before I began to elaborate. Though she had access to my medical records, I can't say she was prepped and ready for our appointment. As she listened to my story, I could she see was simultaneously trying to review my medical history on her computer. In fact, as I hemmed and hawed in response to some of her medical questions, I kept saying/pointing to her computer for her to get the proper answer.

Nevertheless, eventually we were able to move forward in the determination of exactly what kind of cancer I have: thyroid cancer or lung cancer - or both (it's possible, she said). To that end-result, the doctor performed a biopsy on my "Adam's Apple" tumor, as I call it. The biopsy I had two weeks prior was from a lymph node. The results from which caused my oncologist to call me with his "exciting news." Apparently, those results were not enough for the endocrinologist (who had never seen me before) to make a definitive judgment, so in her office, that day, this second biopsy was performed. Fine with me since a second biopsy from a different tumor is absolutely moving the ball forward, as if is so often said these days; I just hope it leads to a touchdown instead of another possible fumble.

For the last nearly 11 years, I've been diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Now after two biopsies, not so much. Right now, the assessment of my cancer status is somewhere between a definite maybe and a confirmed I don't know.

Will I now know - in another week's time (when the results of this most recent biopsy are confirmed) whether my non small cell lung cancer is actually thyroid cancer or will there be additional biopsies, additional diagnostic scans, injections of isotopes, etc., to make a once-and-for-all confirmation of what the heck is going on (or has been going on) in my body? If so, it's been a long time coming. I first went to the Emergency Room Jan. 1, 2009 so it's sort of an anniversary of sorts as I write this column. I'd just as soon we get it right this time, if in fact it was ever wrong.

I have a few questions, some of which were answered by the endocrinologist. Yes, I can have two types of cancer. Could my lung cancer have changed to become thyroid cancer? No. And the underlying curiosity/question: During this cancer life that I have lived, I have been told - and seen multiple times on discharge-type paperwork I've received that I have "metastatic cancer" meaning that the cancer has moved. Moreover, when one considers the staging aspect, my cancer was stage IV. Stage IV means, among "relevancies," (like inoperable) that the cancer has moved from its "primary" location. I remember asking my oncologist where did my lung cancer come from (I'm a lifelong non-smoker with no cancer history in my immediate family). His answer, if I recall correctly, and I may not due to "chemo brain," a confirmed side effect of chemotherapy) was that he didn't know, and if I further recall correctly, he wasn't particularly interested in finding out and accordingly no additional tests were ordered. Perhaps we misunderstand the need to know now or misunderstood the answers we were given then (Feb., 2009). But as of this past Friday, Team Lourie is sort of wondering as was the endocrinologist.

As of this moment, our focus is on hearing back from the endocrinologist. Until then, we'll try to move forward. What's done is done and we'll hear back when we hear back. I have what I have (and have had what I've had) and right now, all we can do is wait.

That being said, we are having a little difficulty restraining ourselves. We can't get past the fact that my oncologist called us in the first place, and in the last place, if he wasn't so sure, why call us and get our collective hope sky high? Why go out on such a presumptive limb? In spite of that call, somehow, we have to internalize and compartmentalize and try to synthesize fact from fiction. So far, it's proving extremely difficult.

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

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