

Capitol Police estimated around 22,000 people attended gun rights rally in Richmond on Monday, Jan. 20, with 6,000 entering the secured area where weapons were not allowed.

# Burke CONNECTION



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**Capitol Police estimated around 22,000 people attended gun rights rally in Richmond on Monday, Jan. 20, with 6,000 entering the secured area where weapons were not allowed.**



PHOTOS BY JEFFREY KNIGHT/VCU CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**Attendees expressed happiness that the massive event was not marred by any major disruptions or violence.**

## Virginia Gun Rights Advocates Take Second Amendment Stand

**Capitol Police estimates around 22,000 people attended peaceful gun rights rally in Richmond.**

BY CHIP LAUTERBACH  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**C**hants of “We will not comply,” and “USA, USA,” sounded through the blanket of security as thousands of armed Second Amendment supporters converged on Richmond to protest proposed gun control measures.

The rally, organized by the gun rights group Virginia Citizens Defense League, raised security concerns in the days leading up to it. Gov. Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency and banned firearms from the Capitol grounds from Jan. 17 to Jan. 21.

Over the weekend, Capitol Police erected a fence around the grounds and created one main security checkpoint into the area where speakers would be located. Capitol Police estimated around 22,000 people attended, with 6,000 entering the secured area where weapons were not allowed.

Despite the governor’s ban, many gun rights advocates came armed and opted to stay outside of the State Capitol grounds, flooding streets around the Capitol and legislative offices in the Pocahontas Building.

**CAPITOL POLICE** reported that one arrest was made. A Richmond woman was charged for wearing a mask in public — a felony in Virginia. The armed protesters didn’t attempt to breach the security fence put up around Capitol Square. A red smoke grenade was set off, but no other disturbances were reported. After the event, Northam expressed gratitude that the event wasn’t violent.

“Thousands of people came to Richmond to make their voices heard,” he said in a statement. “Today showed that when people disagree, they can do so peacefully.”

Days before the rally, the FBI arrested



**Thousands of Second Amendment supporters converged on Richmond to protest proposed gun control measures.**

seven members of a white nationalist group called The Base. At least three were reportedly planning to attend the rally and create a violent disturbance. Northam stated that such intel prompted him to declare a state of emergency. Some businesses near the Capitol decided to close during the rally, though many remained open.

Philip Van Cleave, VCDL president, tried to dispel fears of violence by releasing a social media statement urging attendees to stay peaceful and to focus on supporting the Second Amendment.

“The issue is not race; it’s not politics or politicians,” said Willis Madden, a member of National African American Gun Association from King and Queen County. “It’s not about who is in the White House or who just got elected, the issue is the Second Amendment.”

Many gun rights advocates expressed con-

cern over SB 16, introduced by Sen. Dick Saslaw, D-Fairfax, which would have prohibited the sale and transport of assault firearms and certain types of firearm magazines.

Saslaw pulled the bill last week, but Del. Mark H. Levine, D-Alexandria, introduced a similar bill in the House, HB 961. Levine’s bill would prohibit the sale and transport of assault firearms, certain firearm magazines, silencers, and trigger activators, as well as outlines penalties.

Amy Parker of Westmoreland County said gun control legislation doesn’t make her feel safe.

“Everything they are trying to ban is going to get rid of most guns that people use for self defense,” said Parker. “It’s my right to not be a victim.”

Other gun bills in the General Assembly include SB 70, which requires a universal

background check when people sell firearms; SB 69, which limits handgun purchases to one a month; SB 35, which allows localities to ban firearms in a public space during a permitted event; and SB 240, which would create a process for attorneys and law enforcement to file emergency orders prohibiting a person from purchasing, possessing or transferring a firearm if they pose “a substantial risk of injury to himself or others.” The first three passed the Senate last week and SB 240 awaits a vote.

Van Cleave spoke against the measures endorsed by Northam and Democratic lawmakers. Van Cleave was joined on stage by several Republican legislators, among them Del. Nick Freitas, R-Culpeper, Del. John McGuire, R-Henrico and Sen. Amanda Chase, R-Chesterfield.

“Every other freedom that we have as Americans is based on that Second Amendment,” said Chase, repeating a phrase that she used earlier while addressing advocates waiting in line to lobby lawmakers.

Chase, who previously wore a pistol on the Senate floor during the 2019 General Assembly session, said in a Capital News Service interview that she was “so encouraged” by the rally turnout. Chase said she will continue to work with gun rights advocates to overturn the proposed legislation: “We’re gonna make it happen.”

**ATTENDEES** expressed happiness that the massive event was not marred by any major disruptions or violence.

“I’ve been following the bills and listening to all of the news surrounding today, and I wanted to see for myself that those of us in Richmond could come out here and be peaceful,” said Ryan Querry, a psychology student at Virginia Commonwealth University. “Most people say they are surprised that it turned out so peaceful, but this is exactly what I expected.”



# OPINION

## Virginia Legislature Moves Quickly on Equal Rights, Gun Violence Prevention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

**T**he second week of the General Assembly Session put us at the center of American history. We moved several long-delayed, legislative priorities.

On Wednesday, both the Senate and the House passed resolutions to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to make Virginia the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state to ratify the Constitutional amendment. The Senate has passed the resolution at least six times in past years, but the House of Delegates has never approved it. Ratification will hopefully bring equal rights to 160 million women in America and attention will now shift to the U. S. Congress.

Congress can abolish or extend the 1982 ratification deadline they previously set. I was proud to carry this legislation every year since 2012 and even during years when few people were paying attention. Virginia is finally on the right side of history for the first time in about 150 years.

On Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, had its first meeting and we immediately addressed firearm violence prevention. We considered, modified and passed four bills, three of which the full Senate passed later in the week and one of which was continued for final vote this Tuesday.

The Senate passed legislation reinstating Virginia's one handgun per month law. This became law in 1993 and Virginia became the primary source for most guns confiscated from



criminal activity in New York City. The legislature repealed it in 2012 after a sustained campaign by the National Rifle Association. Under the current bill, people who possess Virginia concealed weapons permits would be exempt from the law.

We also passed legislation requiring the seller of all firearms to undergo a criminal background check. Today, people making all purchases from federally-licensed firearm dealers must undergo these checks, but individuals who are unable to purchase or possess firearms, such as felons or people convicted of domestic assault can illegally purchase firearms by purchasing them from private individuals. The original legislation also applied to firearms transfers with some exceptions, but several members of our caucus were concerned we would unintentionally criminalize some hunting activities so we removed that provision.

The Senate also approved my bill to give local governments more authority over firearms and combined it with four other bills. The final bill would allow local governments to prohibit firearms in public buildings, public parks and at locally-permitted events if restrictions are properly posted. This was a major priority for me after the violent events in Charlottesville and men carrying AR-15 rifles at the Alexandria Farmers Market "to educate the public about their Second Amendment rights." Virginia already authorizes localities to regulate firearms in some circumstances, so I did not see this as a major extension of existing law.

The Judiciary Committee passed so-called "red flag" legislation. The bill that the Senate will vote on on Thursday will allow a magistrate to enter an order requiring people to surrender their guns if it is shown that they are a threat to themselves or other persons because of their firearms. No order can be issued without a law enforcement investigation and individuals must be given a chance to voluntarily surrender their weapons before law enforcement can involuntarily seize them. The law also provides for a second hearing for the person to contest the allegation after full discovery. I expect the Senate to pass this bill soon.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed my legislation prohibiting duck hunting blinds on Little Hunting Creek, Great Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek.

My bill to create a Public Defender's Office in Prince William County passed out of committee unanimously.

The Senate Health and Education Committee approved my bill to prohibit providing "conversion therapy" to minors, along with my bill to eliminate the terms "husband" and "wife" from our divorce law to be replaced with the word "spouse."

I have posted my 2020 Constituent Survey online at <http://scottsurovell.org/2020-constituent-survey/>. Please complete it so I can hear from you about important issues this session, my legislation or anything else you would like to communicate.

You can also reach me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Eyesores That Cheapen Area Appearance

To the Editor:

In addition to overdevelopment, helicopter noise, and traffic volume that is too great for the current road network, the Burke area suffers from eyesores, such as the new sign at Burke Lake Road and Braddock Road, garbage thrown into easements along roadways, and obscured traffic and street signs.

The new sign may be entirely legal, but aesthetically it cheapens that area's appearance. Given trees ability to sequester carbon, it would have made more sense to plant several more trees there.

Roadside garbage is now visible to those using the sidewalks because leaves are falling, so the accumulated detritus is no longer hidden from view. Vermin breed in these areas, especially rats. To spare your sensibilities, I have not



included animal carcass photos, but roadkill collects in easements, too.

Finally, the Civilian Action Corps still works to clear overgrowth

from signs. The Boothe Avenue sign took a while, as it was entirely covered over. VDOT doesn't do all the work that is needed.

Our community requires constant



vigilance, if it is to avoid the corrosive effects of excessive growth.

**Jim Sanders**  
Burke



## NEWS

# Teen Job Fairs for 2020

Five Fairfax County teen job fairs and career-building workshops to be held in March.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has issued the following announcement: "My office and Connection Newspapers, along with a variety of Supervisors' offices, businesses, and community organizations, have hosted very successful teen job fairs and career-building workshops for the past few years. These events focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. The fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. This year I am once again teaming up with Connection



**Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).**

Newspapers, Fairfax County Government, Fairfax County Public Schools, Chairman McKay, and Supervisors Palchik, Smith, Storck, Lusk, and Walkinshaw to bring our community five Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops. They will be open to all teens in Fairfax County

looking for employment, or tips on career-building skills like networking, building a resume or LinkedIn profile, and interviewing. Free booth space will be provided to any business or organization to advertise their available positions. Both teenagers and businesses or organizations may register to attend by visiting the following link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> First jobs are important, and these events

SEE TEEN JOB FAIR, PAGE 11

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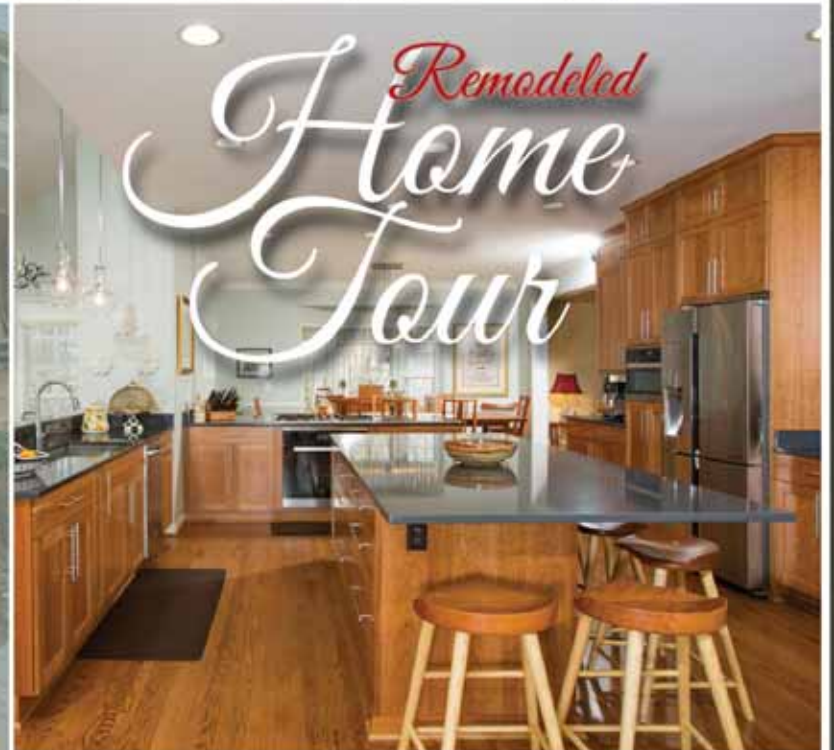
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PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Junior Achievement students at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Mount Vernon are learning the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit.

## The ABCs of Kids and Money

Teaching children how to budget, save and manage finances.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

In an age when paying one's mortgage can be done from a smartphone, money smarts is an important part of navigating life. From saving to buy the latest video game to learning how to budget an allowance, financial literacy is one of the most important lessons for children, say financial experts.

"It's very important to teach tweens and teens about money," said Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the School of Business at George Mason University. "For many kids, this is the first time they are making independent financial decisions, such as whether to save a birthday gift or spend it on a video game."

In fact, Patti Senft, Manager of Program Engagement at Junior Achievement of Greater Washington in Fairfax, Virginia says that one of her organization's goals is to teach financial literacy to children. "Junior Achievement has determined that teaching the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit should begin with middle school students in 7th and 8th grade," she said.

"The knowledge that the students learn through the Junior Achievement gives students the skills they need to manage their expenses and budget wisely for a successful future," she said.

Helping children set financial goals, delay gratification, earn money and save it toward achieving those goals is one of the first steps that parents can take to teach smart money practices, said Pilloff. "The

habits, and even more critically, the decision-making process children develop early on will influence the way they approach financial matters throughout their lives," he said.

Students should be taught to make choices with the amount of money they have, suggests Senft. "It's important to teach children to distinguish between what you need versus what you want," she said. "It's important to teach children of all ages about money. It's never too soon to talk about the importance of savings."

"It's important because in any modern society, the one thing that people do almost every day is make money decisions, so knowing how to do it well is something that is going to be useful to every single one of us," added Laura Levine, president and CEO of the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. "Knowing how to manage money is something that all consumers need to do so it's important that we teach that to our kids."

In fact, learning to manage a budget is one of the basic skills that Levine encourages parents to teach.

"Years ago, finance was basic, but today there are so many options and financial decisions that have to be made," she said. "Money is more self-directed than ever before. Finances are more complicated than ever before, so we need skills to manage it."

When it comes to managing money, one of the best ways to teach is leading by example, says Levine. "Like with anything else, kids learn by what they see at home," she said. "Even parents who haven't made the best financial decisions in the past can resolve to do it now in the New Year."

While some parents might find starting a dialog daunting, it's vital that parents have those conversations with their children, said Levine.

"Talk to your kids about money," she said. "It's important to distinguish between talk and teach. Parents who don't know about money can freak out when they're asked to teach their children about money. Instead, talk to them and say, 'Let's learn about this together.'"



## PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

**Smiles all around in Kingstowne: Jess Judkins is spreading a positive vibe with the handmade coffee sleeves.**

## Crochet Coffee Sleeves Spread Positive Vibe

**Fairfax mother and her children act inspire others with the handmade items.**

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection



The word had gotten out that Jess Judkins, a self-proclaimed “Crochet encourager,” was going to be at the Kingstowne Starbucks on Saturday morning last week, handing out her crochet coffee sleeves to cheer up the local coffee crowd. All they had to do in return was to pass on the positivity. She showed up with her children Judah and Magnolia, and their handmade sleeves, and the store was full of positivity that flowed into the surrounding community.

This “pay it forward,” activity started when they were in line getting coffee one time and her child Judah started handing out flowers to cheer people up. It’s not uncommon to be wearing a numb expression in the morning while waiting for coffee, but the flowers did the trick that morning. The flowers turned into handmade coffee sleeves that they handed out at other Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts in the Burke and Fairfax area and one spot in Washington, D.C. to cheer people up. “So far my kids, Judah, Magnolia and I have handed out over 1,085 sleeves to encourage strangers,” Judkins said.

She mostly uses social media to spread the word of upcoming giveaways, and the recipients from the Kingstowne event responded. Sarah Michelle wrote, “You are the sweetest, thank you so much for

**A Washington Nationals coffee sleeve may be just what it takes to turn a gray day into something positive.**

what you do. We love our sleeves God bless.” April Devan wrote “today was fun thank you for coming out.” The comments were splattered with emojis of hearts and smiley faces, and good feelings.

### Creativity with the Crochet Needle

It’s not just an average coffee sleeve either. Each has a design on them that’s reflective of today’s icons. “So far I’ve designed Harry Potter, Bob Ross, Frida Kahlo, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Ironman, unicorns, Mr Rogers, Baby Yoda, Cow, Dogs, Cats, other animals, floral sleeves, Anna, Elsa, Olaf, Minnie and Mickey, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, R2D2, Ewok, Stormtrooper, Lisa Simpson, The Washington Nationals, Pokémon, Minions, Monsters Inc., Mario, Batman, Spider-Man, Superman, TARDIS, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, rainbows, donuts and dinosaurs,” she said. It seems she can do anything on a coffee sleeve.

“Our sole purpose is to encourage people unconditionally in hopes that they would go out and show kindness to others,” she said. For the Judkins, it’s a fun way to improve people’s outlooks and turn those frowns into smiles.

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# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Funday Monday.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays now thru March. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Play, paint, sing and dance at Funday Monday in the City of Fairfax. This season they are bringing back My Gym to help everyone move and play together, Oh Susannah! with her guitar to sing some old songs and have just as much fun with new ones, and Good Gollie it's Mollie will be coming 'round with more games and playtime fun. They would like to welcome some new friends as well like Drew Blue Shoes, a magician whose magic will leave you mystified and a kids' nature puppet show will come to teach us about the jungle in our backyard. This season they have the local animal shelter and local Spanish emersion group Mi Chu Chu Train coming with specially made programs. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

**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.

## 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](http://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](http://lbchorus.org)

## JAN. 24 AND FEB. 2

**DanceFest 2020.** At George Mason University, Harris Theatre, Fairfax. The DanceFest 2020 Gala is a celebration of dance in Northern Virginia, with companies from the Virginia Dance Coalition (VADC). A fascinating collection of different genres ranging from ballet to classical Indian, to contemporary are being performed. Featured professional companies include Kista Tucker Dance, DanceArtTheater and Dancin Unlimited, along with the Fairfax Ballet and the Ballet Arts Ensemble. The event kicks off with a Gala Performance of member companies on Friday, Jan. 24 at GMU Harris Theatre, and continues on Sunday, Feb. 2 with an all-day workshop of master classes and a Festival performance.

### SCHEDULE:

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 – 7:30 pm/ Gala Performance\* of member companies - Tickets: \$25;

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm/ Full-day Workshop with Master; Classes in Modern, Jazz, Indian Dance and Step. Workshop held at the GMU DeLaski Performing Arts Building;

PLUS: Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 5:00 pm/ Afternoon Festival Performance\* of Emerging Companies - Tickets: \$10.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Polar Plunge Festival.** 1 p.m. At Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Join in the Polar Plunge Festival at the Mosaic District in Fairfax, where you can show your best cannonball into an icy pool for a great cause. Bring your friends and family out for live music and chance to claim the title as the best-dressed plunger. It's \$100 to take the Plunge, but the more you raise, the cooler the prizes. Visit <https://polarplunge.com/mosaic-district/>



## Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel

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

### SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://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](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



MARIA BARANOVA PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” official world premiere at the Center for the Arts, Feb. 1, 2020.**

## Singular Opportunity Awaits

## World premiere Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Center for the Arts

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where and When

“Once in a lifetime opportunity to see one of the most creative minds develop and work in a premiere right here in Northern Virginia awaits audiences,” said Adrienne Bryant Godwin, Director of Programming, Center for the Arts. She was speaking about renowned choreographer Bill T. Jones, a major influencer in the performing arts for decades.

With the inaugural Mason Artists-in-Residence program, “we are trying something very new. With ‘What Problem?’ audiences will be able to see something no one has seen before, right on the Center for the Arts stage,” added Bryant Godwin. It is the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?”

Jones has been and continues as a powerful innovator of expressive dance exploring social issues. As a groundbreaking leader in modern dance for decades, Bill T. Jones is the recipient of prestigious awards including the National Medal of Arts, MacArthur Genius Award, The Kennedy Center Honors Award, and multiple Tony Awards.

“What Problem?” will be “beyond modern dance,” noted Bryant Godwin. It is set to spoken word and original live music by Nick Hallett and sung by the Mason University Singers. The dance performance aims to spotlight identity; what it means to belong to a community yet

Center for the Arts at George Mason University presents the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Concert Hall, 4111 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Feb. 1, 2020 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29, \$41 and \$48. There are special discounts for youth tickets available through grade 12. Call 703-993-2787 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu) Note: A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. “What Problem?” is co-commissioned by the Center for the Arts, George Mason University. Support for the creation of “What Problem?” provided by the Mason Artist-in-Residence program, which is funded, in part, by the George Mason University Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Impact and ARTSFAIRFAX.

have feelings of isolation especially during divisive times.

“What Problem?” has three sections: there is Jones in solo performance; Jones alongside members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; and then in a unique concluding segment, Jones and the company onstage with 30 participants from the Northern Virginia community. The community members will represent the diversity that is the region. The content for the community members' section will be developed specifically for Northern Virginia.

Bill T. Jones described “What Problem?” as an “experimental work that is asking questions.” It is a work of “healing; to find cultural unity...while seeking truth.” The dance will also ask,

SEE WORLD PREMIERE.  
PAGE 10



## News

# All-Night Graduation Parties Are Coming Fast

**Fundraising plays a big part in bringing the whole thing to fruition.**

By Mike Salmon  
The Connection

It's January, but not too soon in the school year for parents to think about the all-night graduation party that area high schools have adopted as a good way to safely celebrate this important student achievement.

Fundraising is on Elaine Lozano's mind this year, as a parent of a senior at West Springfield High School. The West Springfield party will be held at The St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, in Springfield and the price tag is around \$65,000, so fundraising is a must.

Angie Basham is a parent on the steering committee for this year's party, as she was for the 2018 party as well, that another one of her children attended. She said about 70 percent of the graduation class attended in 2018.

"We enthusiastically promote and encourage All-Night Graduation Parties attendance by all high school seniors, so every graduate has a safe and fun place to spend graduation night," she said. "We love them and they're worth it," she said.

For Tana Bailey, parent from Class 2019, having the party all in one location worked for her graduate because everyone from the class was there, and there was no driving around from party to party. "The kids know they can go to just one party and see everyone without chasing all over town, it's a long wonderful goodbye to hang out with best friends and casual friends one last time, one last time to be a kid," she said.

It even catches the eye of nationwide groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who support efforts to curtail drinking that may occur on graduation night.

"We support these and believe that any structured, safe event that happens when teens might otherwise choose to go out and celebrate on their own is a good thing," said Becky Iannotta, the Senior Manager of Communica-



**Singing on the karaoke stage could pave the way for future rock stars.**

tions at MADD.

Lozano is on a fundraising committee with nearly 100 other parents trying to raise funds and it will take more than going door to door selling chocolate bars. A big fundraiser they are embarking on this year involves volunteering at Jiffy Lube Live concert venue in addition to selling restaurant cards, sessions at an SAT Boot Camp test preparation facility, and their winter fundraiser, selling tickets to "The Capitol Steps," a comedy show in DC.

"Thankfully, The St. James worked very hard to help us hold the celebration in their facility and reduced their cost to afford us that opportunity," Lozano said. St. James opened a few years ago in North Springfield and it has pools, fields, courts, computer rooms, eating venues and more, so it's perfect for this kind of thing.

## Evening's Agenda

The evening's activities are up with the times as well, and the list of activities they want to include at the St. James includes pool games such as deep "sea" pool diving, volleyball matches, basketball, floats and a water park. Other activities include casino games, soccer, rock climbing, a ninja warrior course, trampolines and virtual reality games. Prizes are part of it too.

A questionnaire went out to the students and these are some of the ideas that came back.

According to Andy Muir, the Director of Student Activities at West Springfield, the goal for the events has always been to provide High School seniors a safe environment

for them to celebrate their graduation. He's been involved to a certain extent each year, but it's mostly run by the parents.

"At West Springfield it has always been a wonderful event, students and parents have a fun night with some great prizes available for students to win," he said. "There are cash prizes, TV's, Computers, fridges and lots of things that help students get ready for the next phase of their lives."

Planning the night takes a lot of effort too, all done by the parents who mostly have full time jobs to juggle as well. For example, Lozano is a registered dietary nutritionist at INOVA Hospitals so she's the food planner too. While there might be a tendency to gravitate toward the vegetable tray, she looks at it realistically and uses the traditional advice to take everything in moderation. "I have a sign in my office that reads: Everything in Moderation..." she said, and admits "pizza is one of my favorites."

Because the celebration is held from 11 p.m.- 5 a.m., they're planning to have munchie foods as well as some healthy items like fruit and water, and granola bars, but then, some fun foods such as pretzels, cookies, pizza, and wings. It all depends on their budget.

## West Springfield's ANGP Winter Fundraiser

Tickets for The Capitol Steps at West Springfield High School Auditorium are available from Brown Paper Tickets.

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Fairfax County, Va.,  
February 2019



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**THE CONNECTION**  
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**Publishes:**

**Feb 26, 2020**

**Ads close:**

**Feb 20, 2020**



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**CALENDAR**

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**CALENDAR**

FROM PAGE 8

**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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75<sup>th</sup> 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>



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](http://lbchorus.org)

**World Premiere**

FROM PAGE 8

"Is there a we?" in divisive times. The performance is one of "a beautiful design; for the eyes, the heart and the mind," added

Jones. During its development and rehearsal, "What Problem?" aims for the "community to discover who are they and what they might think while in a pleasurable experience."

The Company's weeklong residency goes-beyond on-stage perfor-

mance. There will be rehearsals with the community members and the Mason University Singers; as well as teaching masterclasses with the Mason School of Dance and with Fairfax County Public Schools' Fairfax Academy dance students.

**Announcements**

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS



# BULLETIN

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

## 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.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Town Hall Meeting.** 1 p.m. At 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Sen. Scott Surovell and fellow legislators will host town halls throughout the 36th District in January and February. The legislators will discuss their legislative agendas and take questions from the audience. Some topics will include: Transportation, Education Funding and Reform, The State Budget and Tax Reform, Redistricting, Medicaid Expansion, Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Rights, Firearm Violence Prevention, Civil/Criminal Justice Reforms, Consumer Protection/Predatory Lending, Investing in Green Energy, Reproductive Choice Issues, Protecting Environmental Interests.

## 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](http://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](mailto:scholarships@novec.com).

# Teen Job Fairs

FROM PAGE 5

help connect teens with employers face to face and prepare our youth for the workforce. Please view the Fairfax County Teen Job Fair schedule below:

**Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Woodson High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Dalia Palchik, James Walkinshaw, Woodson High School, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Connection Newspapers.

**Saturday, March 7, 2 to 4 p.m. at South County High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Rodney Lusk, Dan Storck, Chairman Jeff McKay, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Connection Newspapers, Mount Vernon Gazette and Mount Vernon High School

**Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Chantilly High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, Connection Newspapers, and the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

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## Treat One, Get Two.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sure you regular readers are waiting with bated breath for the confirmation of my updated health status. Unfortunately, for the moment anyway, we'll all have to wait a bit longer. Though the needle biopsy of my "Adam's Apple" tumor did indeed confirm thyroid cancer, stage 2, no such confirmation or clarification as to its origin was made, or whether it's been thyroid cancer that I've been living with all these years, instead of non small cell lung cancer, stage 4 or not. However, there is a path forward. Surgery to remove my thyroid gland, along with my "Adam's Apple" tumor, and possibly a lymph node is in the planning stage. As such, scheduled for next Friday is an appointment with a head and neck surgeon to determine my fitness for surgery. All we've been told so far is that the surgery is usually outpatient, arrive in the morning and leave that afternoon (maybe I'll bring along my dry cleaning). Apparently, this is the next step "on the road to find out" (Cat Stevens).

If I am indeed home that same evening, I've been told by my endocrinologist that the recovery period is approximately two weeks. At present I don't have any details of what "recovery" exactly means/entails. If all goes according to the pre-surgical-actually-discussing-the-procedure-with-the-surgeon conversation, a month or so after the procedure, I will revisit my endocrinologist to have radioisotopes administered somehow. Once inside my body, I will be scanned by a machine looking exclusively for thyroid cancer. This will confirm, if I understand the process correctly, whether the tumors in my lungs are thyroid or lung cancer.

In the interim, I am to continue with my immunotherapy ("I. O.") and with any other appointments, scans, etc. I recall something that my oncologist said about my lung cancer tumors during his "exciting" phone call. He said that my tumors never really acted the way he anticipated, as if they weren't non small cell lung cancer at all. And sure enough, some of them, as confirmed by the first of my recent two biopsies were thyroid cancer. As I've been joking, this is what my oncologist gets excited about as opposed to what yours truly would get excited about: a World Series Championship. And also, as he said, thyroid tumors are more treatable, with more choices and better outcomes - which is exciting for me.

OKAY. So I have thyroid cancer and it's more treatable. Wonderful news. But do I still have lung cancer? If so, where's the future in that? Is it somehow no longer a "terminal" disease because I've outlived my original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Will I now be treated for thyroid cancer only to die of lung cancer? Moreover, am I now going to get treated twice, in two medical suites, one for each cancer? Have these multiple biopsies simply determined that the doctors were actually right - both times and I'm just the unfortunate patient to be so wronged?

For 10 or so years, until last January, I was treated for lung cancer - with chemotherapy. However, this past January, the Adam's Apple" tumor appeared and we switched to immunotherapy. The reason for the change: the lung cancer had spread, according to my oncologist. Now, a year later, the story/diagnosis has changed, thanks to my most recent biopsy. The tumor wasn't lung cancer that had spread, it was thyroid cancer that had spread. I didn't even know I had thyroid cancer. Now you're telling me it's spread? How lucky am I? Two cancers for the price of one. I guess this will make health insurance more affordable, sort of like buying in bulk at Costco.

The big question: did my lung cancer treatment inadvertently prevent my thyroid cancer from manifesting/metastasizing or did its non-diagnosis allow it to grow unimpeded and now present this quite unexpected/unanticipated complication? Explain though it may to my oncologist why I haven't succumbed to my original disease, it doesn't quite explain to me what the hell's been going on and why.

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



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