

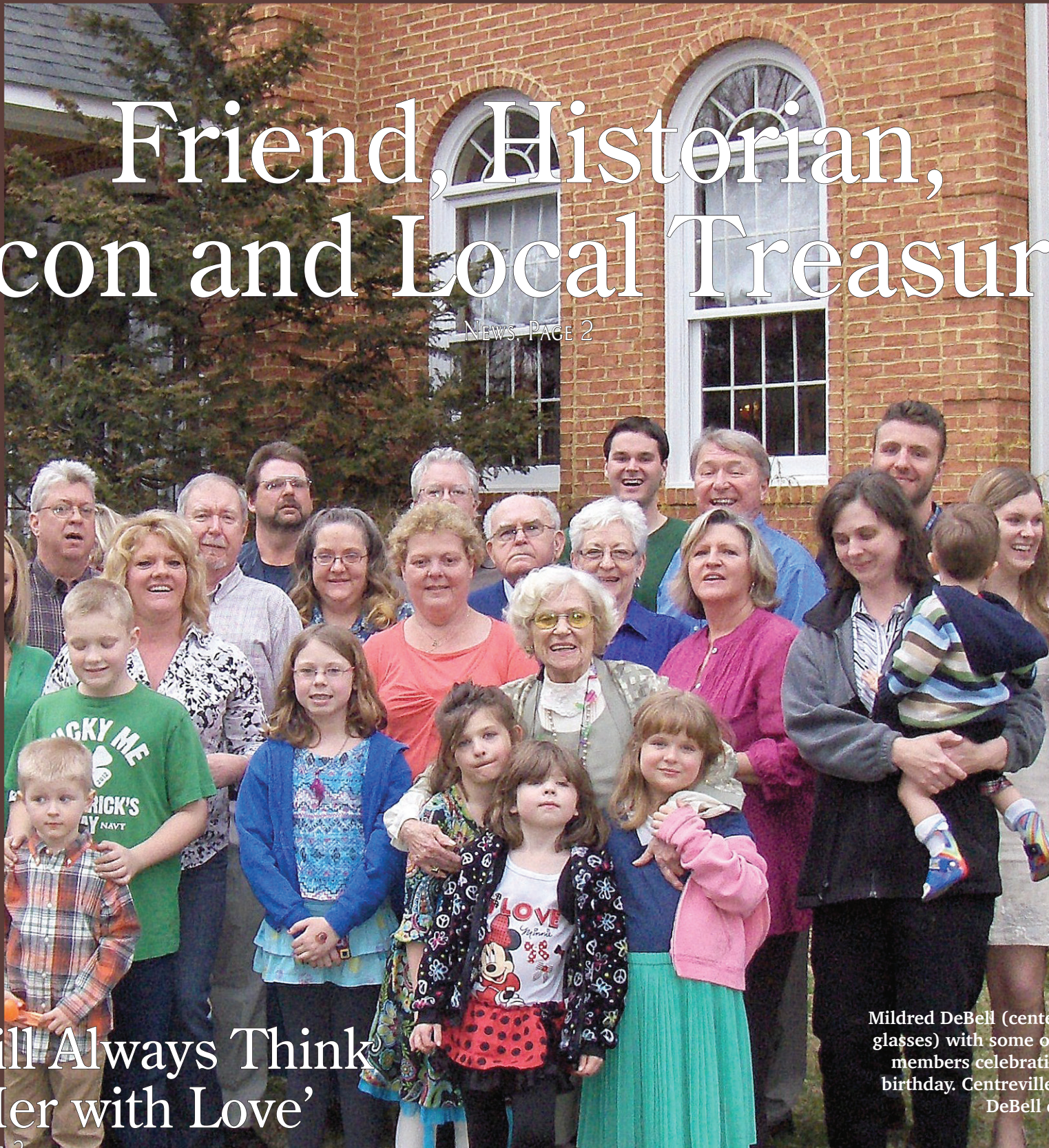
# Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4, 2020

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

## Friend, Historian, Icon and Local Treasure

NEWS, PAGE 2



Mildred DeBell (center, in yellow glasses) with some of her family members celebrating her 95th birthday. Centreville matriarch, DeBell died at 101.

## 'I Will Always Think Of Her with Love'

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# Friend, Historian, Icon and Local Treasure

**Centreville matriarch, Mildred DeBell, dies at 101.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**M**ildred DeBell has been such an integral part of Centreville and its history for so long that it's nearly incomprehensible to think of this place without her in it. But last Monday, Jan. 20, the woman known far and wide as "Mama" passed away – just two months shy of her 102nd birthday.

Yet, her legacy and that of her family will always remain. And when it came to Mildred, especially, this smart, feisty, down-to-earth person certainly left her mark.

"It is sad to lose her – she was such a special person," said former Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey. "She was always upbeat; and while she was so intent on remembering and preserving the past, she was always looking forward to the future."

"She loved to talk with me about where Centreville was headed and what was next for the community. She really did want to make certain that, as the community grew, people did know where we came from – and so she was so meticulous about preserving our history."

"And she did love telling the story at Centreville Day," continued Frey. "I asked her one time how she could have so much energy. I was a fair bit younger, but it was late afternoon and I was dragging. She said talking about Centreville and telling all the more-recently arrived people about our past just kept her going. You're lucky in life if you get to know a Mildred DeBell, and I count my friendship with her as one of my true blessings."

Raised in Fishers Hill, near Winchester, DeBell graduated from high school in Strasburg in 1934.

Four years later, in 1938, she moved to Centreville to teach first grade in the old, wooden, Centreville Elementary School (now Mountain View High School). She was



Mildred DeBell



Mildred DeBell and her 100<sup>th</sup>-birthday cake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNIE DEBELL



Mildred DeBell (in long, gray dress) and her family celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in March 2013.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

there two years, then taught fourth grade at Bailey's Crossroads, returning to Centreville Elementary to teach seventh-grade part time during WWII.

Eventually, she met and married Stuart DeBell and had three children, John, Stephen (deceased) and Stuart Jr. The family now includes nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

**IN THE 1870S**, Mildred's future father-in-law's father, John Daniel DeBell, bought Sunnyside – 500 acres total, on both sides of Route 29 from near Centreville's midpoint, past Rocky Run. Later, the DeBells ran Sunnyside as a dairy farm until the late 1950s.

"But we practically had no help because everyone was away at war," recalled Mildred during one of her birthday celebra-

tions. "We had to work really hard. And in the late 1940s-early '50s, Stuart opened an accounting business in Centreville because we needed the extra money. Later, as the dairy business changed, we sold the farm."

An avid gardener, in 1950, Mildred was one of the charter members of the Rocky Run Garden Club, along with Ellanor C. Lawrence, in whose name the Centreville park was preserved. And from 1952 on, Stuart served 16 years on Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, including two terms as chairman.

In addition, until 1995, the DeBell family ran a Centreville landmark, the Newgate Inn (in the Newgate Shopping Center at Routes 28/29), for 26 years. Meanwhile, Mildred became a noted, Centreville historian and valued member of the community.

In 2003, Supervisor Frey named her the Sully District's honorary Lady Fairfax. And with her trademark humor, she said, "I'm very honored and really pleased. One of

these days, I'll have to start acting like a lady."

Then in October 2017 – at age 99 – she was chosen Centreville Day's Citizen of the Year and Honored Community Historian. "Mildred has been a vital part of our community for nearly 80 years," said current Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, presenting her with a certificate.

"But today, the Centreville Day Planning Committee is especially recognizing her contributions to preserving Centreville history," continued Smith. "When Mildred married into the DeBell family, she took on the role of curator of a large collection of historical records and artifacts tucked away in the DeBell farmhouse, going back as far as 1826."

"Beginning with the first Centreville Day in 1992, Mildred shared that collection with the public by displaying a selection of it on Centreville Day.

[That] display became a Centreville Day staple that Mildred personally organized until well into her 90s. Mildred has always been an educator and a sheer force of nature, and Centreville is all the richer for it."

In addition, DeBell belonged to St. John's Episcopal Church since 1938 and used to direct its choir and play the organ there.

SEE MILDRED DEBELL. PAGE 3

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# 'I Will Always Think of Her with Love'

## Memories of Mildred DeBell from her family.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**I**t's never easy to lose a mom, no matter how old she is. And for members of the DeBell family, the loss of their mother, Mildred, brings both sadness and a wealth of comforting memories.

"Mama was remarkable for how many lives she touched, everyone in her family and her many friends," said her son Stuart "Snookie" DeBell. "She was dedicated to helping her community and deepening the understanding of Centreville history.

"As a child, I remember being taken from function to function," he continued. "One night, the Lions club; the next night, choir practice – she just never sat down. She left me with many fond memories; our family was very fortunate to have her with us so long."

**HER SON** John DeBell said his mother's religion and devotion to St John's Episcopal Church were major factors in her life. "It closed during WWII and the structure deteriorated," he said. "But a small group of Centreville residents in the early 1950s took on the task of restoring and reopening it for services – and she was right there working to get it done.

"She played the organ and directed the choir for decades. She participated in organizing and running the annual bazaars and gave as much money as she could afford, every year. Nothing happened there that she wasn't involved in. It was also the source of many of our parents' friends."

Another thing that stands out, he said, was his mother's love and dedication to Centreville. "When she first arrived, it was just a crossroads with a few aging houses – in what's now the Historic District." Said DeBell, "There probably weren't any more than a few hundred people living within a 5-mile radius. It's now many hundreds of thousands of people, and she lived through all that growth and change."

In her older years, he said, "She was frus-



Mildred DeBell on her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.



This professional photo shows Mildred DeBell in 1938 at age 20.

trated by how little most of the new residents knew about Centreville and its history. So, for several decades, she became the unofficial historian for Centreville. She had exhibits at every Centreville Day and

loved to talk to new residents about its history."

DeBell said his mom worked hard all her life in various businesses, while participating in most of the local, civic organizations.



At age 100, Mildred DeBell reminisces about her childhood.

And while his father represented the then-Centreville District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, from 1952-1968, Mildred was also busy being the wife of an elected official, with all the political and civic duties it entailed.

"Up until the early 1950s, Centreville didn't have a post office, so mail to anyone in Centreville was addressed to Clifton," said DeBell. "When my father was elected to the Board of Supervisors, he began work to get a post office in Centreville. He was successful and, for his efforts, he and my mother were assigned P.O. Box 1 – the address my mother still has today, some 70 years later."

"I first met Mama when I worked at the local drugstore in Centreville at age 14," said John's wife, Connie DeBell. "Some 52 years later – more than 48 of them as her daughter-in-law, she at times was a mentor and certainly someone that I admired for her faithfulness and love of family."

Noting that family and church were "everything to her, all her life," Connie said Mildred's "love of St. John's Episcopal Church spanned more than 75 years. She was also instrumental in my becoming baptized and confirmed at St. John's, after I married her son John."

Furthermore, said Connie, "I became a  
SEE FAMILY MEMORIES. PAGE 7

## Mildred DeBell, Dies at 101

FROM PAGE 2

She also enjoyed poetry-writing, as well as other pastimes. "I just quit smoking in November," she said during her 100<sup>th</sup>-birthday party in 2018. However, she added mischievously, "I still sneak a cigarette, every once in a while."

**GMU HISTORY PROFESSOR** Ted McCord, Mildred's first cousin, once removed, was at that party, too, and

praised her warmly. "She's a legend in her own time," he said. "She has a remarkable mind, a great memory and an excellent sense of humor. She also smokes and drinks – and she's a hero to most of my friends because of that."

Sadly, though, time eventually caught up with her and, after living in her Centreville home for nearly 80 years, DeBell spent the past year in Catharpin, living with sons John and Stuart and their wives. Then on Dec.

6, she fell and broke her hip and went from the hospital to a rehabilitation/skilled-nursing facility to an assisted-living facility in Gainesville under hospice care. And on Jan. 20, that's where she died.

"We moved her here on the 15<sup>th</sup> and thought she may have some time, but she went downhill quickly," said daughter-in-law Connie DeBell (John's wife). "[By the 20<sup>th</sup>], she was receiving comfort care only and was the most peaceful she's looked

since she broke her hip."

She was cremated, but the family will hold a special service and internment for her this spring at St. John's. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Episcopal church, P.O. Box 2360, Centreville, VA 20122-2360. On the memo line, write: Memorial Fund-Mildred Keller DeBell-Organ Fund. Her full obituary is at <https://www.piercefh.com/>.



# OPINION

## The People's Business

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

**T**he General Assembly has shifted into high gear to get through its agenda of thousands of bills in sixty days. The old saying that you cannot be in two places at one time is disproven every day as the 140 members of the House and Senate scurry among subcommittees and standing committees on which they serve and the subcommittees and committees before which they have to present their bills. By strategically placing an assistant or intern in one meeting while the member moves quickly among several meetings, it may even appear that a member is in more than even two places at one time. The legislature is not a place for lengthy contemplation but rather is a place for action. After all, we ran on a platform of what

we promised we were going to do, and the legislative session is the time of action to deliver on our promises.

With such a "meat grinder" approach can we trust the outcome of a legislative session? Consider that in order for a bill to become a law it must meet the approval of a subcommittee and full committee, passage twice in the full house on two different days, the same process in the other house of the legislature, and the signature of the governor.

All that time there are hundreds of advocates, constituents, lobbyists and others looking over your shoulder and providing comments on what you are doing. Bills get intense scrutiny before they are passed. It is easier to describe how a bill does not make it than it is to tell how a bill becomes a law. Fewer than half the bills intro-



duced become law.

Election outcomes do matter for to change the outcome of debate on important issues it may be easier to change the people in the legislature through the ballot box than it is to change the minds of incumbent legislators. A case in point is ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment that was debated for decades but approved within a week in a General Assembly made up of new members supporting the rights of women. Those same new members, joining the progressives who were already there, have even now approved sweeping new common-sense gun safety laws such as my universal background check bill that had been defeated for two decades by previous members of a subcommittee of the House. Laws that put barriers in the way of women in making choices con-

cerning their own reproductive health are being repealed. Laws that disproportionately affected people of color are being repealed. The criminal justice system is undergoing a major shift to make it work more fairly for all people. Challenges to the environment are being met with meaningful legislation.

It is impossible to list in a short column the thousands of bills before the legislature. You can however review the full list with descriptions and status at [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov) and for the first time this year you can see livestreaming of most full and subcommittee meetings at [virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream) and [virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](http://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3). And you can visit the Capitol in Richmond; all meetings are open to the public. Some say the process is like making sausage. The important thing is it is doing the people's business.

## After Virginia Ratification Of Equal Rights Amendment Beyer: 'Next Steps Depend On Congress'

**R**ep. Don Beyer (D-8), a longtime supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and cosponsor of legislation to extend the deadline for ratification, issued the following statement after the Virginia General Assembly voted to ratify the ERA:

"Today, Virginia became the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and I could not be more proud. Ratification of the ERA is long overdue, but it is wonderful that Virginia took the historic step today which brought the Amendment across the three-fourths threshold necessary for ratification.



**Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)**

"I congratulate and applaud everyone in the Virginia General Assembly, including Senator McClellan, Senator Locke, and Delegate Carroll Foy for making

this long-overdue legislation a top priority, and seeing it through successfully.

"The recent legal opinion issued by the Trump Administration via the Justice Department makes it clear that the next steps depend on Congress. I am determined to do everything I can in Congress to help pave the way for the final ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Equality, justice, and history demand nothing less."

Beyer is a cosponsor of House legislation to extend the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, sponsored by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA). The issue of

the deadline was raised most recently by a Trump Administration legal opinion arguing that the ERA could not be ratified because of the expiration of the original deadline. Beyer is also a cosponsor of new Equal Rights Amendment legislation introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Beyer's most recent Annual Women's Conference and Forum focused specifically on the need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, with a panel discussion that featured speakers from VA Ratify ERA (Virginia's campaign to ratify the ERA) and the ERA Coalition.

## Wexton: 'A Historic Moment'

**I**n response to the final passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10) issued the following statement: "Today, Virginia sent a powerful message to the rest of the country — that 'Equal Justice Under Law' is a constitutional right for women.

"I was a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment during my time in Richmond, and I am proud of my former colleagues in Richmond who made this issue a priority in this year's session.

"This is a historic moment nearly one hundred years in the making. Thanks to the tireless work of so



**Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10)**

many trailblazers and activists over the years, women — finally — are one step closer to being included in our nation's founding document."

### 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 libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

# CENTREVIEW

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## SPORTS



**Megan Baxter #14 scored 17 points in Chantilly's 57-37 win over Westfield.**



**Meghan O'Brien #33 scored 17 points for the game.**

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

## Chantilly Charges Beat Westfield, 57-37

The Chantilly Chargers had a Concorde District game with Westfield on Jan. 24. Chantilly would jump out to an early 14-4 lead in

the 1st quarter enroute to a 57-37 win to improve their record to (13-4)(2-2). Westfield falls to (9-9) (1-4).

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**VDOT** Virginia Department  
of Transportation

### Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study Fairfax County

Public Information Meeting

**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Presentation begins at 7 p.m.**

Inclement weather date: Thursday, February 20, 2020

Westfield High School, Lecture Hall  
4700 Stonecroft Boulevard  
Chantilly, VA 20151

Find out about a study assessing potential safety and operational improvements at the intersection of Braddock Road (Route 620) and Old Lee Road, and the S-curve on Braddock Road just west of Old Lee Road. The concepts being studied include realignment of the S-curve and intersection enhancements at Braddock Road and Old Lee Road such as turn lanes and innovative intersection improvements.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the study. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Study staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website ([www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 703-259-2239 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **February 24, 2020** to Mr. Andrew Beacher, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Braddock Road and Old Lee Road Safety and Operational Improvements Study" in the subject line.

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## News



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN MOLEK

(From left) A jubilant Sujay Khona poses with his prize certificate and his Academy instructor, Matthew Balthrop.

## Chantilly Junior Wins Award for Video

Chantilly High junior Sujay Khona is also a student in the Television and Media Production class at the Fairfax Academy. And the video he made, "The Savings Genie," recently won first place in the Burke & Herbert Bank regional contest for the American Bankers Assn.'s Lights, Cam-

era, Save! video contest.

As his prize, he received a \$350 gift card from the bank, and his Academy teacher, Matthew Balthrop, received a \$50 gift card. Khona's video now goes to the national contest, for which voting on social media will determine the winner.

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# BULLETIN BOARD

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

**Judges Are Needed.** 3:30 p.m. At Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Westfield High School is holding its annual Science Fair and needs judges. Arrive between 3:30-3:45 p.m. and read abstracts and judging will begin at 4 p.m. All judging must be completed at 6:30 p.m. This is a valuable experience and for many this type of independent research is their first experience with hands-on science. The fair provides students the opportunity to see not only what their peers have done, but also to gain the experience of presenting to and getting feedback from knowledgeable adults. Contact Rory McGlinn at [rhmclinn@fcps.edu](mailto:rhmclinn@fcps.edu)

**Give Feedback on Route 50 Study.** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. At Brookfield Elementary School, 4200 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly. The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting on a study of potential safety and operational improvements for nearly two miles of Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) between Route 28 (Sully Road) and Stringfellow Road (Route 645). The public will be able to provide input through an online survey. The study is being completed through the Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program, which aims to identify cost-effective measures intended to improve safety and reduce congestion. A key part of this study is public input. Residents of the corridor in the study area are asked to take a short survey at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/r50chantillystudy.asp>. You may also give comments at the meeting or submit them by Monday, Feb. 10 to Mr. Andrew Beacher, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

## Family Memories

FROM PAGE 3

lover of flowers and gardening while living with her the first seven years of our marriage. We worked alongside each other during those years, digging, planting and enjoying the beauty of nature. In 1989, she nominated me to become a member of The Rocky Run Garden Club, of which she was a charter member. She will be missed, and I will always think fondly of her, and with love, for a remarkable mother-in-law, friend and mentor.

**MILDRED HERSELF**, was also known for her wisdom and advice. On her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, when asked the secret of her longevity, she explained, "Keep busy, keep your mind active, and think of other people and what you might be able to do to help them. You just have to keep going, day by day. You really learn when you're down and out. I've had many peaks and valleys, but I've had many friends, plus family, to help me through them. You learn to climb back up."

She also encouraged people to learn history "because you learn from other people's experiences. Try to use your own ingenuity and use the talents God gave you so you can create. Don't depend on the masses to tell you what to think and do. Go back and study our American history and be grateful to those who've done so much to give us the freedoms we have."

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## Can You Spell Thyroidectomy? (Or Ice Cream?)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I couldn't before, Mr. Rogers, but now I can. And I even know what it means, which 10 days ago, in my neighborhood, I wouldn't have had a clue. Now, not only do I have a clue, I have a date for surgery: Jan. 27. Moreover, in addition to a date (and I don't mean my wife, Dina), I have a time and a place, a list of pre-surgical dos and don'ts, and a few items to buy: a post-surgical healing ointment and a special scrub to help minimize the risk of infection. And of course, I've been advised to wear loose-fitting clothing, perhaps a button down cardigan will do. If all goes well, I'll be home in my jammies around supper time when my recovery begins. Details of which are still a bit sketchy. I suppose I'll have to 'recover' to find out.

Let me amend that last sentence: I'll be on a soft-food diet for five days. What might not jump at you is that I don't eat many soft foods (M&Ms melting in one's mouth instead of their hands likely doesn't count). More significantly and quite out of my ordinary, my wife, Dina will be managing and controlling my menu. So far that menu includes eggs, pudding, apple sauce; all good but her last two items: spinach and kale, not good at all. I imagine I'll survive the surgery, but given how rarely Dina and I have shared meals together over the years, I may not survive the recovery. And though her heart and head might be in the right place, I'm afraid my knife and fork won't be. During the best of times, I'm challenging to feed. After my surgery, I'm likely going to be at my worst. Although I certainly don't look it, food has always been the bane of my existence.

But at that post-surgical point, aren't I entitled? I mean, when I was a little boy and had my tonsils removed, I remember being given ice cream to eat - in bed. That had never happened before - or since, quite frankly. Soft foods. What's softer than ice cream? Why should I be deprived? I have two types of cancer. Yet so far, I don't see ice cream on the list. Maybe Dina's waiting for confirmation from the surgeon that cold foods are just as soft as hot. If true, I think I'm going to need that in ALL CAPS to convince my wife to give in to my indulgences. After all, one's thyroid gland isn't extracted every day so shouldn't I scream (perhaps whisper would be advisable) for ice cream? Wouldn't it soothe the savage beast that I might be after surgery? Presumably there will be some pain or discomfort and/or side effects from prescription medications I'm obliged to take so why not humor me; I like to laugh.

Except there's really nothing funny about surgery, other than the old joke: it's minor surgery when it's someone else, when it's me, it's major. So even though I've been told on relatively good authority that a thyroidectomy is not exactly major surgery, it's still me that's being anesthetized and operated on for four hours. And though I'd rather it would be somebody else, I don't see how that would help remove my thyroid gland which apparently has spread cancer to my neck and a lymph node. I guess if it has to come out, it might as well come out of me. And then we can get on to the business of learning whether I have one cancer or two and perhaps get an updated assessment of my life expectancy. If I had my druthers, I'd just as soon have only one cancer. Two is too much.

That being said/vented, right now, I just want to wake up after surgery and get home. And when I get there, either that night or for breakfast the next day, there better be a pint or two of ice cream with my name on it. I think it's only fair, don't you?

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



# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Sock Drive for Local Students.** Now thru Feb. 10. At Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The Sully District Police Station is hosting its annual Sock Drive for Fairfax County students in need. Last year, this station collected more than 3,500 pairs of socks that were given to students as a special, Valentine's Day surprise.

**Collect Coats for Children in Need.** Now thru Feb. 28. At CSB Office, 14150 Parkeast Circle, Suite 200, Chantilly. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Youth & Family Outpatient staff is holding a coat drive to benefit its clients and the community. Bring new or gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves to CSB's office.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 1

**Multi-Level Remodeled Home Tour.** 12-4 p.m. At 6837 Corder Lane, Lorton. Learn how your neighbors are modifying their homes for a better quality of life. Bring family and friends together in a way that fits your lifestyle. Create open, private, and specialized spaces for all to visit comfortably. Presented by Sun Design, an Architectural Design-Build firm. Call 703-425-5588 or visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).

**Groundhog Day History.** 1-2 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Punxsutawney Phil may hog all the glory on Groundhog Day, but Fairfax County has burrowing critters of its own. On Groundhog Day eve, come to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and learn the story behind groundhog weather forecasting and visit the home of the Walney garden groundhog. Learn some interesting facts about groundhogs and play groundhog games. For children age 4 to 12. Cost is \$7 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 2

**Flying Squirrel Campfire.** 4:30-5:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Make s'mores and learn about the flying squirrels that live in our area. The "Flying Squirrel Campfire" is for participants age 4 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Free Chair Yoga.** 3:30-4:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Gentle and mindful chair yoga. For adults. Free.

## MONDAY/FEB. 10

**ALNV Volunteer Opportunities.** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Sully District Government Center, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Volunteer to help your community through the many programs sponsored by Assistance League of Northern Virginia. Assistance League programs support local children and families in need through Weekend Food for Kids, tutoring programs, and providing new clothing and layettes. Individuals looking to stay in touch with the local community are invited to attend to learn more about the organization's programs. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. Free. Visit the website [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

**Free Photography Class.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive, Centreville. Learn about photography fundamentals with basic camera controls. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 29

**CVHS Choral Cabaret.** 6:30-10 p.m. At Centreville High School Cafe, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Come join the 16th annual Choral Cabaret, featuring a night of marvelous music, spectacular silent auctions, and delectable



## “Cinderella”

**Virginia National Ballet Principal Dancers Saaya Pikula (Cinderella) and Emanuel Tavares (The Prince) star in “Cinderella.”**

## SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**“Cinderella.”** 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Old Town Manassas. This brand new production choreographed by Artistic Director Rafik Hegab will enchant audiences with beautiful sets, costumes, music, choreography, and dancing. Starring Saaya Pikula as Cinderella, and featuring VNB's professional company as well as students from VNB School. Tickets are \$40 adults, \$25 students (age 17 and under). Visit the website <https://hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-cinderella>

desserts. Cost is \$10.

**Pink Tie Breast Cancer Charity Ball.** 6 p.m. to midnight. At Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. The IIIB's Foundation will host its 9th Pink Tie Breast Cancer Charity Ball to raise funds for their Bosom Buddy Baskets which are presented to women when they wake up in hospitals following breast cancer surgery. These baskets provide comfort from the pain associated with breast cancer surgery and treatment and lets them know they are not alone in their journey. The event will feature a Candlelit Served Dinner, Open Bar and Dancing All Night, Silent Auction, Raffles, Surprise Guests and More. 100% of All Proceeds benefits The IIIB's Foundation. Ticket prices are \$199 per person.

## ONGOING

**Diabetes Sisters PODS Meetup.** Meets the first Monday from 7-9 p.m. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. An evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Opportunities to share experiences, peer support, and lived expertise with others who have been there too. Meet with other women living with diabetes for encouragement, education, and empowerment. Women age 18+ living with any type of diabetes or prediabetes are welcome, regardless of whether they were diagnosed yesterday or 40-plus years ago. They strive to create an open, respectful environment for women with diabetes or prediabetes to truly focus on their health. Free. Visit the website:

<https://diabetessisters.org/pods-meetups>

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475 for more.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225.

**Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

**Carolina Shag Dance.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org) for more.

**Open Rehearsal.** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilairs.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilairs.org) for

more.

**Live After Five.** Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for a full schedule.

**Mondays are Family Night.** 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

## LIBRARY FUN

**Toddlin' Twos.** Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Storytime for Three to Fives.** Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Plant Clinic.** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Lego Block Party.** Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Duplo Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Legos Kids Club.** Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

**Starlight Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

## IMPROVING ENGLISH

**One-on-One English Conversation.** Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

**ESL Book Club.** Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

**English as Second Language Book Club.** Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

**Advanced English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

**English Conversation Group.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Farsi Conversation Group.** Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Practice speaking Farsi with native speakers in this weekly drop-in conversation group. No registration required. Adults. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

**English Conversation Group.** Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Practice English Conversation Group.** Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

**ESL Book Club.** Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.