

# Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

The old tracks show signs of a side track area where the station was located in Newington.

SENIOR LIVING

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Fairfax Divorce Workshop.**

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**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2020  
Saturday, March 14, 2020  
Saturday, April 18, 2020

**Time:** 9:00 - 9:30 AM - Registration  
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**Place:** Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC  
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## News

**Katlyn Weiser speaks at a press conference in Richmond in favor of a bill designed to crack down on egregious practices of student loan servicing companies.**



## Predatory Student Lenders

**Northern Virginia lawmakers hope to crack down on student-loan servicing companies.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s a high school student, Katlyn Weiser dreamed of attending George Mason University. She wanted to have a career in public service, being in the room where it happens on Capitol Hill. But instead she found herself under a mountain of debt, struggling to keep up with meeting minimum pay-

ments and ultimately being forced to make a difficult decision about her future. She says she'll never forget the day when an agent from loan-servicing company Navient told her that she should probably drop out of school to pay off her student debt.

"I cried," says Weiser. "I cried a lot because I had come so far. I had become the first person in my family to go to college,

SEE STUDENT LOANS, PAGE 5

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# County Studies State Budget

**Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee: Tracking items of interest to FX CO against Governor's proposed budget and specific legislation.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held their first 2020 Legislative Committee Meeting on Fri., Jan. 17 with James Walkinshaw, (D-Braddock), chairman of the committee, and Jeffrey McKay, (D) vice-chairman. During the nearly three-hour meeting, staff reported to the Legislative Committee items deemed important and specific to Fairfax County.

Staff began their presentation with items on Gov. Northam's proposed 2020-22 Biennial Budget and amendments to the 2018-20 budget," followed by House and Senate bills introduced to the Virginia General Assembly by the Fairfax County Delegation.

The meeting kicked off with Claudia Arko, Legislative Director reading the Committee's approved "Five Priority Principles For Reviewing Legislation: Adequately fund K-12 education; Restore funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; Build upon the successful enactment of significant transportation revenues by the 2013 General Assembly; Restore the funding partnership between the state and localities; and Preserve local government authority, particularly in taxation and land use; and allow greater flexibility in the administration of government."

Albena Assenova, Revenue Coordinator of Department of Management and Budget, had tracked items of interest to Fairfax County that were included in the budget as well as the impact of these relative to county and school budgets and shared updates with the Committee. "The governor's budget did not include across the board salary adjustments for constitutional officers and state-supported local employees...the governor included funding to fully reimburse the general registrar and electoral board salaries in the localities, and we think that this would result in an increase of \$41,000," she said.

Assenova said, "The governor proposal included an increase in state cigarette tax rate from 30 cents per pack to 60 cents...allowing the Board of Supervisors to increase the cigarette tax and that would result in an increase of 5.4 million to Fairfax County...deposited in the general fund."

According to Assenova, in the judicial department, the County expected they might see an increase in four positions, given the governor's budget included funding for 59 additional positions for public defenders across the state. Still, it was unclear how many additional district court clerk positions. "We need more than 21 additional positions in the district court and more than 9 positions in the juvenile court," Assenova



**Albena Assenova,**  
**Revenue and**  
**Economic Coordi-**  
**nator**



**Ellen Volo,**  
**Deputy Legisla-**  
**tive Director,**  
**Office of the**  
**County Executive**



**Noelle**  
**Dominguez,**  
**Legislative Liai-**  
**son, Department**  
**of Transportation**



**Chris Sigler,**  
**Assistant**  
**County Attorney**



SCREENSHOTS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY VIDEO

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee Meeting,**  
**Jan. 17, 2020**

said. The budget did include one new general district court judgeship and one clerk support staff for Fairfax County, funding for local stormwater assistance, Virginia Housing Trust Fund and for the 2020 Presidential Primary, reimbursement to localities for their expenditures.

As for the school budget, Governor Northam's Proposed Budget targeted more than one-third of new spending on education. According to Assenova, the governor's budget includes a total of \$69.2 million increase for fiscal year '21 compared to the current year budget...There were no teacher salary increase proposed for the first year of the biennium. Assenova reminded the supervisors that the County did receive state funding towards salary increases of teachers for fiscal year 2020, and the governor included another increase for fiscal year 2022. The proposed budget includes funding for additional counselors related to school safety at \$2 million.

In the Human Services section of staff presentations, Ellen Volo, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of the County Executive said the governor's proposal would provide a 3 percent increase for state-supported local employees of social service departments, "We do think that we would get about receive \$2.2 million for a 3 percent increase...if this component of the budget is passed, the County will receive \$2.2 million in FY

2021," she said. There would be an approximate \$400,000 match required.

Noelle Dominguez, Legislative Liaison, Department of Transportation, said the proposed budget did provide about \$50 million more than the last projections for Northern Virginia Transportation funding due to legislation passed in the previous year related to sales of items to the internet as well as revenue from the I-81 bill last year that provided some funds back to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

The second item Dominguez presented had to do with regional transportation entity appointments. "Two years ago the General Assembly put language in the budget that allowed the Speaker of the House to appoint non-legislative members to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. Some members are currently not general assembly members," said Dominguez. The budget would remove the language for the next appointments; appointees would have to be from the General Assembly.

**ONE ITEM** concerned the Department of Motor Vehicles and the proposal for 100 more employees given the need for a REAL ID compliant driver's license. "About 1 million or at least more than a million people might get those licenses in Virginia... Pro-

portionately nine of the ten busiest DMVs are in Northern Virginia, two I think are right in our area," Dominguez said.

Moving on, the Committee received details on three County Initiatives of Special Legislation that they had asked the Fairfax County Delegation to move through the General Assembly, among them SB-23 by Senator Adam Ebbin (D-30) that prohibits discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Next, the Committee received reports for continuous support of historical positions for legislation such as Courthouse Security Fees SB 149 (Howell); Equal Rights Amendment HJ 1 (Carroll Foy) (Passed House; SPE)/SJ 1 (McClellan) (Passed Senate; HPE) ratifies the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States that was proposed by Congress in 1972; Solar Freedom HB 572 (Keam) and others.

Referring to the four bills in front of the Legislative Committee that spoke to Solar Freedom, Vice Chair McKay said, "I suggest that we do an individual letter on these, what this means to Fairfax County; to come forward from the chairman at our next board meeting, so we can be on record specifically on this issue, and specifically putting it down in terms of what this means for Fairfax County and how far along we are in this. And this would put a halt if these are not approved."

## Highlights of New Bills 2020 General Assembly

**HB 1391 (Leftwich) (HCT)/SB 253 (Chafin) (SJUD) - Recommend oppose.**

Chris Sigler, Assistant County Attorney: I think the issue with the bill is that our affordable housing, ADU program relies on things like affordable housing restrictions and covenants that don't appear in the Deed of Trust, but when there is a foreclosure we want those restrictions and covenants to be protected by the Trustee and honored...I think this bill may say they might not have to do that, and that gives us great concern for the ADU Program.

**HB 1534 (Samirah) (HCCT)/SB 649 (Boysko) (Senate Floor)-Recommend support.**

Chris Sigler, Assistant County Attorney: It allows Fairfax County, to enter into agreements with towns either wholly or partially within its boundaries for the collection and enforcement of property taxes. So we would be able to collect those by agreement with Herndon.

SEE LEGISLATIVE, PAGE 10

## 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:

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Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
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# Student Loans

FROM PAGE 2

one of the first people in my high school to go to college, and it was sad to hear that because I had come so far.”

Weiser did not listen. She didn’t drop out, and she’s now a senior at George Mason University. She says she has determined that she can’t afford a career in public service, so she plans on being a lobbyist instead. She’s one of the student borrowers state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) wants to help with a bill she calls the Borrowers Bill of Rights. It would use the power of the State Corporation Commission to crack down on what she calls the egregious practices of student loan servicing companies.

“We can regulate these student loan servicers to ensure we’re protecting our borrowers from shady practices, and believe me there are shady practices,” says Howell. “Every other type of debt is regulated in Virginia except student loans debt. This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt.”

**DEMOCRATS HAVE WANTED** to crack down on student-loan servicing companies for years, but the Republican-led House of Delegates has blocked the effort. Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) has introduced legislation to have the State Corporation Commission regulate student-loan servicing companies for years only to be blocked by the GOP majority over and over. Even when Howell was able to get similar legislation through the Senate, Simon found that the Republican-led House was not interested.

“It’s interesting that a number of delegates who have been sympathetic but didn’t think this was the right solution voted for the bill in committee this year,” said Simon. “So I think we’re on a glider path here, although there are a few people who continue to believe that we shouldn’t be helping out students for whatever reason.”

This year, Democrats are in control of the General Assembly. That’s opened the floodgates for a

number of issues, and cracking down on student-loan servicing companies is one of them. Howell’s bill cracking down on student loan servicing companies passed a Senate committee with a unanimous vote. And Simon has a similar bill that’s already passed the House with an 84 to 15 vote.

“When student-loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security,” says Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia.

“When student loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security.”

**THE BILL** requires student loan servicing companies get a license to operate in Virginia from the State Corporation Commission, which would crack down on

egregious practices like misrepresenting the amount of money due, recklessly applying loan payments to outstanding balances and failing to report payment history to consumer credit bureaus. Violators would be hit with a \$2,500 fee.

“This bill is not about free college,” said Seth Frotman, executive director of the Student Borrower Protection Center. “This bill is about making sure borrowers in the commonwealth who took on debt to chase the American dream aren’t ripped off in the process.”

All of the egregious practices outlined in the bill are already illegal. But borrowers would have to hire a lawyer and file a federal lawsuit to take action, which is not a workable solution for people who are already under a mountain of debt. Instead, this bill makes these actions a violation of state law and empowers the State Corporation Commission to go after bad actors. That way borrowers who feel they’ve been wronged could file a complaint with the Bureau of Financial Regulation.

“Why are Virginia borrowers having to resort to lawsuits for their consumer protections?” asked Del. Cia Price (D-95). “It is past time for student loan borrowers in Virginia — like me — to have common-sense protections.”

**“This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt.”**

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)

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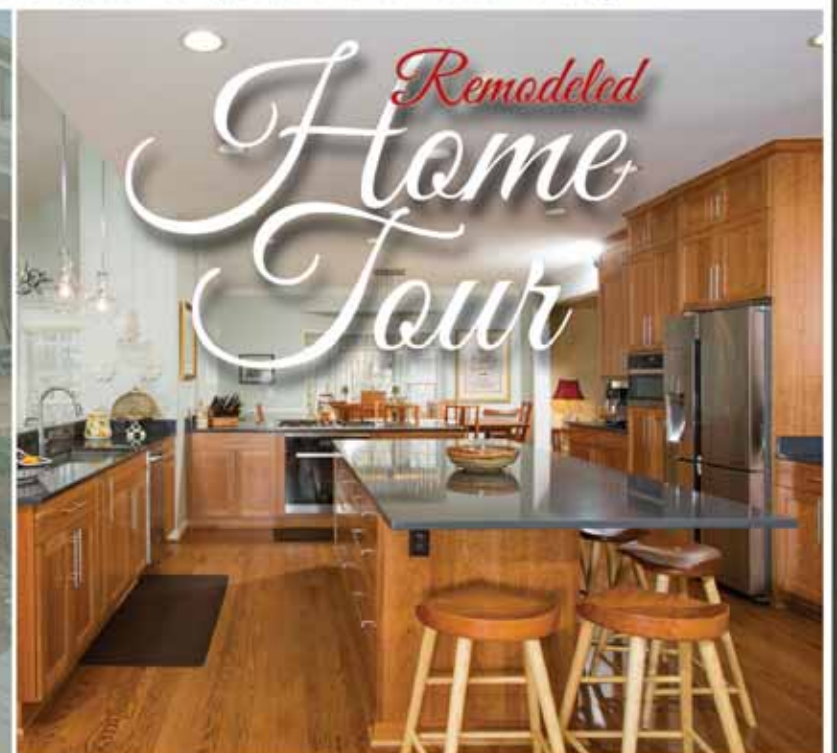
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## SENIOR LIVING

# Tax Season, Tax Scams

The most common tricks  
and have to avoid them.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ax season and tax scams often go hand-in-hand. Scammers will try to steal tax documents, money and even a person's identity and seniors are often their prime target.

"Con artists will target anyone, but older adults are targeted at higher rates because criminals go where the money is, and older adults have the majority of wealth because of their years of hard work and savings," said Amy Nofziger, Director of Fraud Victim Support at the AARP. "Plus, older adults have not grown up with the technology of today, which has grown so fast."

"Older Adults are often targets because they are going through life transitions and scammers can be very convincing," added Rachel Coates, Director of the Arlington County Agency on Aging. "Awareness is critical."

While numerous scams abound, there are some that are currently more prevalent than others. "The complaints we hear...is the IRS phone scam," said Stacy Northrop of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs. "This is where the caller will state that a warrant of arrest has been issued for the victim."

"The crook will claim that the recipient in trouble for not paying enough in taxes or not filing properly," added Eric Friedman, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection. "Crooks instill a sense of fear and urgency, then they'll trick the consumer into wiring money or paying over the phone with a prepaid gift card. Consumers make quick decisions that they wouldn't make if there wasn't a sense of urgency."

Some of the features commonly thought to be safeguards may not be so, says Friedman. "You cannot trust Caller ID to tell you who's really on the other end of the phone," he said. "Caller ID is of no value because crooks can say anything over the phone. They can have IRS as the name that appears to make it look official."

Telephone calls and emails are two warning signs of a scam.

"This is not how the government actually operates," said Nofziger of AARP. "You would always first receive a letter from the IRS, and they would never threaten you with arrest or use foul language. If you receive this type of call, hang up the phone."

Fraudulent emails and websites can be created to look as though they are from a government agency.

**"If anyone calls, mails, emails or texts you asking for money, that is a red flag. If they ask you for personal information such as your Medicare number, Social Security number or financial information, it's a huge red flag."**

— Amy Nofziger, Director of Fraud Victim Support at the AARP

**"Crooks instill a sense of fear and urgency. Consumers make quick decisions that they wouldn't make if there wasn't a sense of urgency."**

— Eric Friedman, Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection

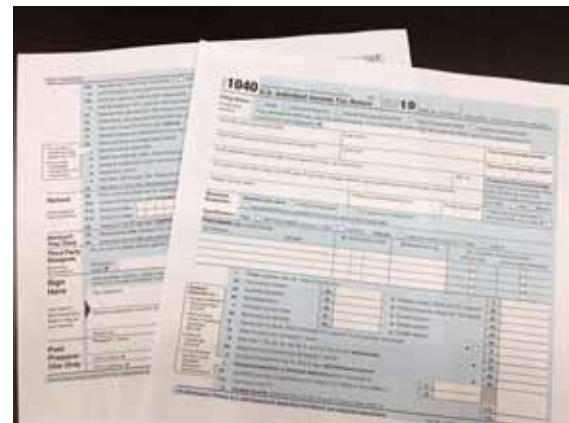


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Know the warning signs to avoid scams this tax season.**

## For Help and More Information

- ❖ AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork](http://www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork). AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline and our trained fraud specialists can help walk you through it: 877-908-3360.
- ❖ Free Help at Montgomery County Libraries: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/Resources/Files/taxaideflyer.pdf>
- ❖ Tax ID Theft Awareness Week: <https://www.idtheftcenter.org/tax-identity-theft-awareness-week-2020/>
- ❖ Arlington Adult Protective Services 703-228-1700
- ❖ Fairfax County Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-county-silver-shield-anti-scam-campaign>

"Many older adults are unaware that criminals are lurking on what we consider innocent websites or apps, like 'Words with Friends,' Instagram or other social media platforms," said Nofziger. "This is why education and warning people about the red flags is crucial."

Identify theft is also prevalent during tax season, says Friedman of Montgomery County. "Crooks will steal someone's social security number and file [taxes] really early, like in January or February, before the consumer files their return," he said. "When the consumer really does file, the IRS rejects it. When the problem is reported, the IRS will

have to investigate which takes months to resolve, which is not good if you're getting a refund."

Scammers seek to obtain money from a victim often in the form of wire transfers or cash, says Nofziger. "It's important to know the red flags of

scams," she said. "Even though the scam tactics might vary, the criminals' demands never change. They want money or personal information. So if anyone calls, mails, emails or texts you asking for money, that is a red flag. If they ask you for personal information such as your Medicare number, Social Security number or financial information, it's a huge red flag."



# History Surrounds the Newington Train Station Site

The waiting areas inside were segregated at one time.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

It's hard to say where Newington is these days, with all the buildings and roads slicing through the area, but at one time, a train stopped at the Newington station, and folks would hike up to Pearson's store next to the station for a soda pop. The train would pull into the station, passengers would get on and get off, just like commuters these days, and life went on.

Train travel was a big part of life in this area, and there were stops all along what is now I-95, but life at the Newington station, which some called the Long Branch Station, ceased to exist on June 1, 1971 when it was torn down. According to a Fairfax County Inventory of Sites Report, the "Newington Station was important in the transportation of troops to and from Camp Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) during World War I and from the same facility during World War II." This document is dated Oct. 26, 2007, and it said the Fairfax County Park Authority re-located the building "however no one in Park Authority today has any knowledge of the building," it read.

## Pearson's Store

The tracks were relocated and Pearson's Store lived on for a while longer, but now the site where both structures were located doesn't show much signs of life. It is close to the one-lane bridge on Newington Road and Cinder Bed Road. There are old railroad tracks that venture off to the side where the station was located, and some tires and other car parts dumped there.

The train station was built in 1872, as was Pearson Store, which later housed the Newington Post Office. There is still a Newington Post Office up the hill from the station site, across from the oil storage tanks. The building was 24.5 feet wide and 70 feet long, built of "vertical board and batten design," and belonged to the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad Company. "According to residents of the area, there were originally two waiting rooms: the one on the north end was for African-Americans; the other on the south end was for whites," the report said. It was referred to as a "historic structure," in a few instances on the report. A Fairfax County historic places sign is currently located in the Newington Park about one mile from the former station location.

A "Mrs. Fahringer," tried to save the structure, according to a letter dated Jan. 22, 1972 but she was too late. It had already been partially demolished.



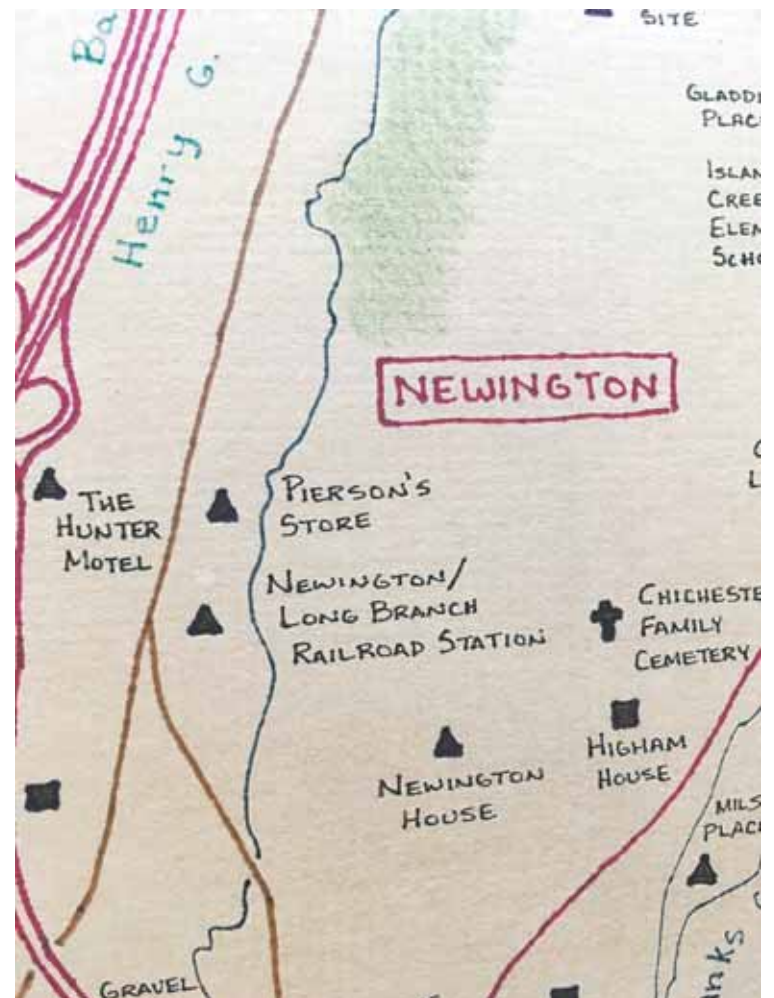
PHOTO BY CATHY BOGGESS, CIRCA 1977

The Pearson Store was across the tracks from the Newington Station, and it was there for a few years after the station was taken down.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

The old tracks show signs of a side track area where the station was located in Newington.



On a map in the Franconia museum, Pearsons Store, spelled "Piersons" on the map, and the Newington Station are present.



# 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), Now thru 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>.

## SUNDAY/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 continues on Sunday, Feb. 2 with an all-day workshop of master classes and a Festival performance. **SCHEDULE:** 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.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 30

**New Year Reception.** 5-7 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center Forum, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Everyone is invited to attend Chairman Jeff McKay's New Year Reception. Please bring canned food to donate to Stuff the Bus or pet supplies for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. For details, email [hannah.menchhoff@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hannah.menchhoff@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## JAN. 31 TO FEB. 2

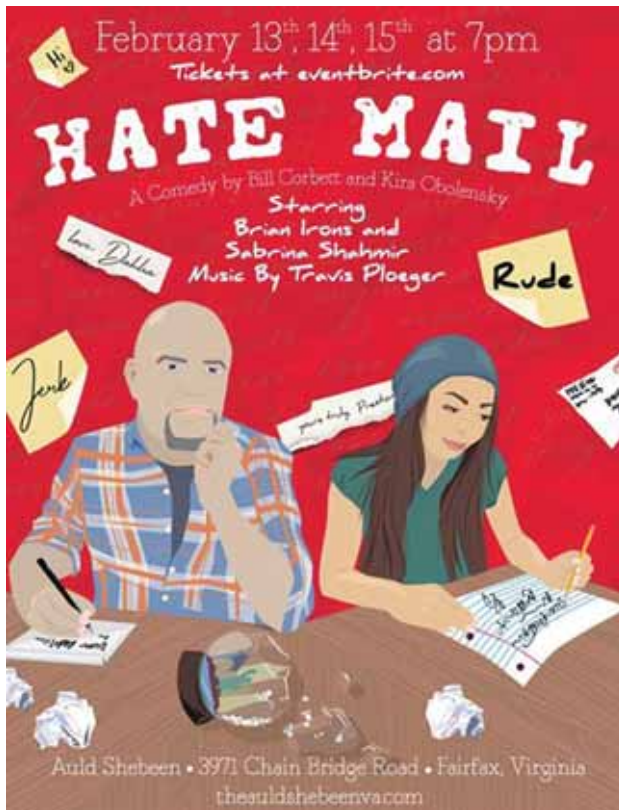
**PAW Patrol Live! "Race to the Rescue."** Fri. Jan. 31 - 6 p.m.; Sat. Feb. 1: 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m.; Sun. Feb. 2: 10 a.m., 2 p.m. At GMU Eagle Bank Arena, Fairfax. PAW Patrol Live! "Race to the Rescue," is an action-packed, music-filled production. It's the day of the Great Adventure Bay Race but Mayor Goodway is nowhere to be

## "Hate Mail"

**"Hate Mail:" A comedic play at the Auld Shebeen on Feb. 13, 14, and 15.**

### FEB. 13, 14, 15

**"Hate Mail."** 7-8:30 p.m. At The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. A fast-paced, quick-witted comedic play about outrage, scandals, and falling in and out of love. Tickets on Eventbrite. Cost is \$20. Visit the website <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hate-mail-a-comedy-play-tickets-90457752573>



## Lesson Zero

**Lesson Zero will perform at The Mixing Bowl on Feb. 15 in Springfield.**

### SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**Lesson Zero.** 8 p.m. At The Mixing Bowl (formerly J W and Friends), 6531 Backlick Road, Springfield. Music and dancing with Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero. Visit [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) or [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero) for more information.

found. PAW Patrol to the rescue. Tickets start at \$21.50 (inclusive of facility fee) and are available at the EagleBank Box Office or at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

## 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/>

## JAN. 31 TO FEB. 29

**Fairfax City Golden Ticket.** 12 p.m. Fairfax City's Economic Development Authority has partnered with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce to host the 2nd Annual Fairfax City Golden Ticket contest in support of the 2020 Chocolate Lovers Festival. The Fairfax City Golden Ticket Contest features three golden tickets hidden within 1,200 chocolate bars made by local chocolatier Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates. The chocolate bars are available for purchase at participating Fairfax City businesses beginning Friday, Jan. 31 for \$3 each while supplies last. The contest offers three lucky winners who find the golden tickets a Chocolate Lovers gift basket featuring chocolate and items from participating Fairfax City businesses valued at \$200. To purchase a Golden Ticket chocolate bar, visit any of the businesses listed at [fairfaxcityconnected.com/goldenticket2020](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/goldenticket2020).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 1

**Ping Pong Tournament.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, Clifton. The Clifton Betterment Association is sponsoring its Ping Pong Tournament. No fee to enter. All ages and levels of experience welcome. Register now <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4eaeaa2c7-pingpong2020>. Sign up in the appropriate category and they will provide brackets and times when they are ready. For more information, contact Lynne Strang [lbstrang@gmail.com](mailto:lbstrang@gmail.com)

**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).

**Sip & Scotch Whisky Tasting Party.** 2-4 p.m. At Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Laurel Hill Golf Club invites guests, 21 years and older, to kick off the new Sip Series; classes and events that mix art and history with food, wine and spirits. Hosted by scotch expert Debbie Waugh, taste and learn about four single malt scotch whiskeys from the four different Scottish regions along with Scottish food accompaniments. Cost per person is \$45. Events will be hosted in the clubhouse and require advance registration. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurel-hill](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurel-hill).

**Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. In this world premiere, Mason Artist-in-Residence Bill T. Jones examines group identity and its relationship to aloneness set to spoken word and live music. What Problem? includes three thought-provoking sections: Jones in solo performance; Jones alongside members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; and, in conclusion, Jones and the company onstage with participants from the greater Northern Virginia community. For more than 35 years, the landmark Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company has revolutionized modern dance while exploring issues of identity through social commentary. Tickets are \$48, \$41, and \$29. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

## SUNDAY/FEB. 2

**Super Bowl Fun Day.** 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come learn about train travel and sports at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Snacks and a craft will be provided and cost is included in the admission fee. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and retired or active military, \$4. Visit the website [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**T-Trak Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia T-TRAK members will hold a N gauge Model Train Display. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. Call 703-425-9225. Visit the website [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 4

**Research Workshop Series.** 7 p.m. At Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Burke Centre Library will offer the first class of the year in their Research Workshop series. Learn tips and tricks on using Heritage Quest, an online research tool for historical and genealogical research available through the libraries. A limited number of laptops will be available during the workshop for hands-on practice with the resource.

## FEB. 4 THRU MARCH 2

**The Beauty of Wood.** At Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street, Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery presents "The Beauty of Wood". This exhibit features photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield, and wooden boxes by Jon Kaufman of Fairfax Station. A Meet the Artists Reception will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit runs Feb. 4 through March 2. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at [info@artistsundertaking.com](mailto:info@artistsundertaking.com). Visit the website [www.artistsundertaking.com](http://www.artistsundertaking.com)



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Dance and Live Music Take Center Stage at Workhouse

## 'Winter Music and Dance Festival' from Next Reflex Dance Collective.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

A night of live collaborative performance with distinct creations is in store for audiences at the "Winter Music and Dance Festival" produced by Next Reflex Dance Collective. The Festival will bring together diverse musicians and artists at the Workhouse Arts Center. Next Reflex Dance Collective is the Workhouse Artist-in-Residence.

"We are committed to creating new work which challenges ideas and broadens perceptions, while also encouraging experimentation at the highest level," said Roxann Morgan Rowley, artistic director, Next Reflex Dance Collective (NRDC), the Collective's mission is to capture an audience's interest by creating art collaboratively with artists of all disciplines and to support the creation of experimental dance work.

"I'm excited to say that this is the third year for the event and as always there are new faces that bring new musical and dance perspectives," noted Morgan Rowley.

"Next Reflex Dance Collective, one of our Artist-in-Residence, has been a remarkable partner," said Ava Spece, President and Executive Director, Workhouse Arts Center. "We have been very impressed with their presentations of inventive new works, incubated in our studio spaces on campus, followed by well-attended premieres on Workhouse stages."

The "Winter Music and Dance Festival" will include the premiere of Morgan Rowley "The Painting," a solo inspired by the painting "Christina's World" by Andrew Wyeth as a woman is lost in her own thoughts. Is she feeling the weight of being physically abandoned? Nate Masters will perform live musical accompaniment.

Next Reflex Dance Collective will perform "Intimate Window," a series of short dance vignettes with live music. The vignettes provide glimpses of lives lead behind closed doors. The musical composition and performance is by Mark Snyder. "A Journey Through" is another new dance work by



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROXANN MORGAN ROWLEY

**Roxann Morgan Rowley, Artistic Director, Next Reflex Dance Collective**

## Where and When

Workhouse Arts Center presents Next Reflex Dance Collective's "Winter Music and Dance Festival" at Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theater, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performance on Feb. 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 youth, \$15 Student/Senior/Military, \$25 Adult. For tickets visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) or call 703-584-2900. For general information about the Next Reflex Dance Collective visit [www.nextreflex.org](http://www.nextreflex.org)

Morgan Rowley. It explores personal journeys with musical composition and performance by Nate Masters. With music by Drake Dragon, Morgan Rowley's short dance film "Glimpse" will be screened.

Kristin Hatelburg, Tori Utenburger and District Tap will also share their unique choreography styles and perspectives. The music underpinning their dance works are expected to run the gamut from alternative rock to roots music and more.

"We are devoted to being a part of our



PHOTO BY KACIE WATERS-HEFLIN/COURTESY NEXT REFLEX DANCE COLLECTIVE

**Next Reflex Dance Collective performance of "Vision."**

dance community's growth through the inclusion of various artists in specific performance and outreach programs," added Morgan Rowley.

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**NEWS**

# Legislative Committee Tracks Priority Bills

FROM PAGE 3

**SB 631 (Surovell) (SLG)-Recommend support.**

The County supports expanded local authority but has concerns about its ability to implement this authority.

Chris Sigler, Assistant County Attorney: "(May allow by ordinance) the County to fine people who have essentially stolen or removed the shopping cart from the shop that it belongs to and can fine them up to \$500... There's concern that there are shopping carts that end up in our creeks."

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk (D- Lee): "I'm not sure if the punishment fits the crime...I have some issues that the \$500 penalty will probably be assessed to someone who is homeless."

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence): "This is penalizing poverty. This is how my family shopped when we first moved here."

Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville): "If this bill is passed, we do not have to implement any fine at all...I support it...Fining someone \$500 or any amount would be inappropriate, but putting the burden on the store owner to retrieve these and get them back is reasonable."

**HB 812 (Ward) (HPS)/SB 69 (Locke) (Passed Senate)-Recommend support.**

The bill would reinstate one handgun a month.

**SB 297 (Favola) (SRSS)-Recommend support.**

Creates the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund-Recommend support.

Sue Rowland, State Legislative Consultant, SR Consulting, Inc.: "This is a good bill; we recommend you support... The idea is that there would be funding for local programs such as ours to focus on prevention prior to the support that we give when people have had a bad experience."

**HB 151 (Samirah) (HCCT)—Recommend oppose.**

Provides that all localities shall allow for the development and use of one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) per single-family dwelling (SFD), notwithstanding any contrary provision of zoning ordinance.

Chris Sigler, Assistant County Attorney: "I think the issue we have with this bill is that we are eroding our land use authority number one. And number two, I think this bill is driving at the affordability crisis... to resolve some of the affordability issues...Right now, our staff is looking at our accessory dwelling unit policy and will be coming back to you...This bill is a mandate that goes a little bit too far."

Visit [http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=9](http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=9) for Meeting Material and the archived video for the Jan. 17, 2020 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee Meeting.

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# 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.

## BURKE LAKE GOLF CENTER IN TOP 50

For the second year running, Burke Lake Golf Center's driving range was recognized as one of the Top 50 Public Ranges by Golf Range Magazine, a publication of the Golf Range Association of America (GRAA) and the Professional Golf Association (PGA). Each year GRAA recognizes the teaching professionals, public, private and stand-alone ranges whose achievements stood out. GRAA considers the number of range visitors, new social celebrations, events for women, marketing campaigns and available event space for private rentals. Noted in the recognition:

- ❖ Burke Lake Golf Academy's dedication to growing the game through programs for all player levels including juniors and women.
- ❖ LPGA Head Professional Kate Via's leadership role with the local chapter of LPGA Girls Golf and development of new classes and summer camps to attract new user groups to the facility.
- ❖ Burke Lake Golf Center's double-decker, fully renovated range featuring 64 lighted station driving range and 24 covered and heated stations, open year-round.

Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burke-lake).

## 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 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).

## 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](http://britepaths.org). Contact 703-273-8829 or [sryan@britepaths.org](mailto:sryan@britepaths.org).

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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 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.



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