

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW

FEBRUARY 12-18, 2020

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Mountain View grad Jerilin Martinez with (from left) boyfriend Alejandro Manzano and parents Melgian Montoya and Antonio Martinez.

‘Hard Work Leads to Success’ For These Students

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NEWS

'Hard Work Leads to Success' for These Students

Mountain View High holds winter graduation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In a school of second chances, nothing is taken for granted – neither the support of the teachers and administrators, nor the hard work and dedication of the students. And for Mountain View High, all this effort and caring culminates in two graduations a year.

This year's winter graduation was held last Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Centerville High. Students Devonte Knott and Matthew Benson reflected on what Mountain View has meant to them and their classmates, and then Principal Joe Thompson addressed the graduating seniors (see sidebar).

Next, student speaker Walter Sweeney shared his personal story, telling the hurdles he had to overcome to reach graduation day. Four years ago, he was working on boats in Antigua, just a year away from graduating. But after getting into an altercation with a teacher, he was kicked out of school.

"I moved to Virginia to live with my sister, and she convinced me to return to school," he said. "At Mountain View, people welcomed me and smiled at me; they seemed more interested in my success than I did. I worked night shifts at Fed Ex to pay my bills, and I didn't want to get up and go to school. I was always finding a way to get out of class."

But the Mountain View teachers and staff refused to let Sweeney slide and were determined to not let him throw away the chance they were offering. "A few staff members talked to me about the importance of perseverance," he said. "One day, a staff member asked me, 'What's your plan after graduating from school?'"

"I had no plan," said Sweeney. "I was 19, I couldn't stay with my sister anymore and I didn't think I'd be able to pay for community college. I didn't even have a car. But thanks to an amazing social worker at Mountain View, I was able to get into housing. But also because of that, I had to stay in school."



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View grad Jasmine Rosa and her family after the ceremony.

BACK HOME in Antigua, he said, "When I went sailing, we'd do tacking – sailing the boat against the wind, moving it back and forth, slowly but surely, to the destination. I've not always progressed in a straight line or done what people expected me to do.

"But I've learned it's OK to have setbacks. You can tack back to your course where you need to be. At Mountain View, I completed my credits and will now graduate. And this June, I'll head to boot camp to become a United States Marine." Sweeney's words were met with loud applause from the audience. He then said, "Thank you to everyone for all your support, and congratulations to everyone," and received a standing ovation.

Afterward, the school honored four seniors with special awards. The Citizenship Award is given to students who've helped build a positive, school community, and this one was presented to Milovan Espino.

The Personal Achievement Award goes to students who succeed while, at the same time, dealing with

SEE MOUNTAIN VIEW, PAGE 3

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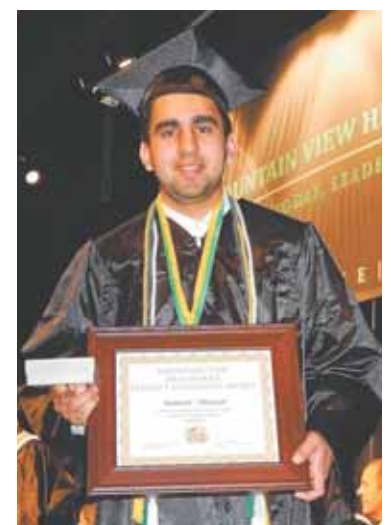
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Milovan Espino holds his Citizenship Award.

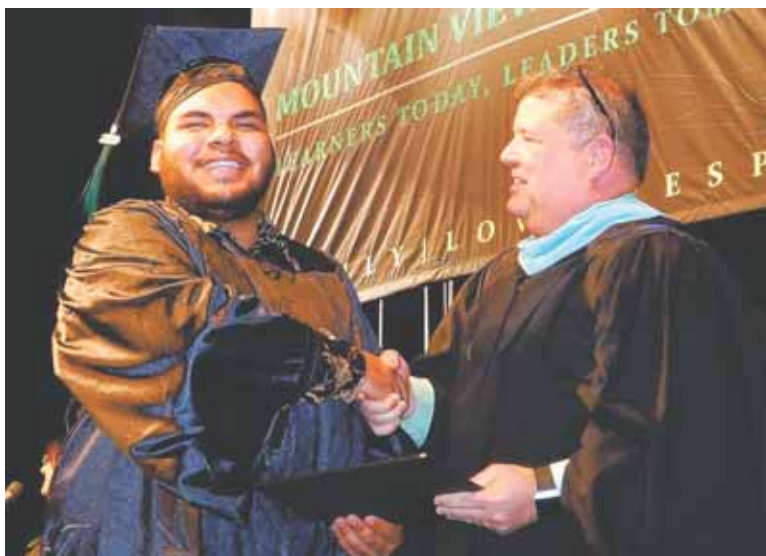


Brianna Canales and her Personal Achievement Award



Sameer Ahmad with his Faculty Award

(From left) John Antoni Lopez Saucedo receives his diploma from Principal Joe Thompson.



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

‘Respect for Others Makes Life Better’

Mountain View principal gives advice to grads.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Before Mountain View’s winter graduation last week, Principal Joe Thompson spoke to the grads. He expressed his pride in them and shared some sage advice to guide them through whatever their future holds.

“I want to offer my sincerest congratulations and thank you for all the positive contributions you have made to the Mountain View culture,” he said. “Collectively, the resilience and commitment to meeting the diploma requirements that you students have demonstrated reward us, your educators. Because we believe all students can learn, and because it’s our mission to find a path to success for all, your accomplishments today honor that work.”

Noting that it’s not easy to obtain a diploma from Fairfax County Public Schools, Thompson said, “There are no shortcuts and no giveaways – you have to earn it. And you have earned this accomplishment. The great thing about earning something, rather than having someone give it to you – even when it means taking an alternate route – is that what you have earned cannot be taken away.”

He said he’s confident that, going forward, they’ll experience success in the many endeavors they’ll choose. “I’m certain of this because I see the proof of your hard work today in this ceremony,” explained Thompson. “Nobody can deny that you have achieved greatly by earning your diploma.”

“While it may not be hard to forget the bumps and bruises you have endured on the path to this stage, please don’t forget also that you were able to respond to adversity, set goals, and connect with people that care about you in order to overcome difficult times and succeed.”

THOMPSON then advised the grads to, “Most importantly, remember that success is rooted in [the school’s motto of] Family, Love and Respect. When you encounter new and different challenges in life, use the lessons you’ve learned here with us to connect to people that will help you. Find the ones you trust, the ones you can have faith in, and then

help them as they help you. Those people that you count on for help, you should consider them your family.”

He said they’re bound to face future setbacks and failures that will test their faith in themselves. “When those tough times come, remember the staff here at Mountain View valued you for all the amazing things that make you, you,” said Thompson.

“When you came to Mountain View, there were people that believed you were too valuable as a person to experience only failure,” he continued. “No matter what the problem was, there were adults who thought you were important enough to find a solution and experience success. At Mountain View we call this love. Never forget you are important, you are valued, and you deserve success.”

Finally, said Thompson, “Remember to show respect to the people you encounter in your future, just as you have here. If you’re lucky, you’ll be forced to encounter people from all walks of life throughout your adulthood. Some will be your soulmates and a perfect match. Others will hold only views that are opposite of yours.”

AT THIS SCHOOL, he told them, “You’ve been part of a very eclectic group of individuals. In your class projects, in your group presentations, and even in your simple greetings passing by each

other in the hallway, you’ve demonstrated an amazing ability to respect each other as individuals. This world is desperate for your skills in respecting others. Take the lessons learned here and teach those around you that respect for others makes life better.”

Since the concepts of family, love and respect are so integral to the fabric of life at Mountain View, Thompson felt compelled to discuss them one more time before the new grads went out into the world. He also wanted to remind them of the value of these notions when viewed as the blueprint for their future achievements.

“You deserve the success that you have earned, and we will be waiting here at Mountain View to hear all about it,” he said. “Congratulations again to the graduating class of 2020 on all your success today and those yet to come.”

“You deserve the success that you have earned, and we will be waiting here at Mountain View to hear all about it,”

— Mountain View’s Principal Joe Thompson



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Graduate Anderson Valencia-Mejia with (from left) dad Gursel Uyar, mom Virginia Mejia and uncle Carlos Mejia.

Mountain View Holds Winter Graduation

FROM PAGE 2

family, job and other adult commitments. And the recipient was Brianna Canales.

The Faculty Award is given to students achieving the greatest academic and personal success, despite significant obstacles. This time, two students received it. School counselor Mike Todd presented first one to Sameer Ahmad.

“He’s an intelligent, young man who’s thoughtful and questions everything,” said Todd. “He’s originally from Pakistan and has a great deal of respect for education and educators. Sameer wants to play soccer and go to college, and he got nearly all A’s in his classes, while working at Macy’s, 40 hours a week. He’s a model of how hard work leads to success.”

Career Center specialist Jenelle Lee presented the second Faculty Award to Annmarie Mansaray. “She’s originally from Sierra Leone,” said Lee. “And when she was 15, she broke free from a forced, polygamous marriage to a man three times her age. She also watched people die during the Ebola crisis and advocated

about how to prevent the spread of Ebola.”

In 2017, Mansaray came to the U.S. and to Mountain View to reconnect with her mother and get an education. “Annmarie worked two jobs to help her family financially,” said Lee. “Her hard work, dedication and persistence are why she’s here today. She won three, Mountain View scholarships totaling over \$5,000 and plans to attend NOVA to obtain an associate degree in nursing.”

SPEAKING NEXT, just before the students received their diplomas, was Chuck Woodruff, president of the nonprofit Mountain View School Foundation, which enables people to donate, tax-free, toward scholarships for the students. Since 1999, he said, “The Mountain View Foundation has given over \$700,000 in scholarships to over 500 students.”

He then encouraged people to go to the Website, <https://www.mtnviewfoundation.org/>, to learn more about it and donate. “Mountain View is a great group of people who make Family, Love and Respect more than just a motto,” added Woodruff. “Congratulations, graduates.”



Grad Walter Sweeney is congratulated by Marine Staff Sgt. Christian Banker.



New graduate Rae Arrington and boyfriend Mason King

Realizing Dreams and Filling Jobs

BY ANNE M. KRESS, PHD AND
TODD ROWLEY

This session, General Assembly members are considering a proposal that would help close the Commonwealth's skills gap by providing workforce scholarships to individuals without access to the community college education required to gain these skills. This proposal is a win-win-win: assisting students, growing businesses, and developing our communities.

We are describing Governor Northam's "Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back" (G3) budget initiative. G3 is a last-dollar workforce scholarship program designed to create opportunities for low and middle-income families. The support it provides would make-up the difference between what financial aid covers and the actual cost of tuition, fees, and books for targeted programs in high demand fields.

Qualifying students must select a career field in which employers cannot find enough qualified candidates. In Northern Virginia, these include IT, Cybersecurity, and Healthcare. In other words, G3 is an investment in continued and accelerated regional economic growth.

Because of Northern Virginia's historically low unemployment rate, it has become clear that we need to "Grow our Own" workforce through educating more people to fill high-demand and high-value positions. In fact, finding and developing talent has emerged as the top concern of members of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. For that reason, the G3 plan has already earned the official endorsement of the Chamber.

Our initial estimate is that approximately 12 percent or 8,400 Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) students could be eligible to participate in G3, and our data show that 60 percent of NOVA students work part-time while pursuing college. They want to and need to work but lack the credentials needed to find full-time employment in high demand fields. Many cobble together multiple part-time jobs, which makes them take much more than two years to complete an associate degree. This workforce-based initiative would make it easier for our students to place a priority on quickly completing their education and finding sustaining wage careers. These graduates can stay in our region, building their families and contributing to their communities.

The Commonwealth wants G3 recipients to understand their responsibility to those who are supporting their education, so in return for this financial support, G3 students will be asked to "give back" to our state by completing two hours of community or public service for each credit hour in which they are enrolled.

Through offering more NOVA students a chance at the American Dream, we do much more than help individual students; we assure a competitive business climate, continued regional growth, and graduates connected to the communities they serve. NOVA is committed to assuring that every student succeeds, every program achieves, and every community prospers. G3 supports this mission, and we encourage you to voice your support for this transformational program.

If you would like to let General Assembly members know you support the Governor's G3 initiative, please let them know. If you are unsure who your delegate and senator might be, you can access whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov, then enter your address and find out.

Anne M. Kress, PhD is Northern Virginia Community College's new President. Todd Rowley is Chair of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Natasha McKenna and the OneFairfax Imperative

One white man's journey to the cause of equity.

BY THOMAS G. GOODWIN

Natasha McKenna died five years ago today, [Feb. 8, 2015] naked, cold, frightened, shackled, muzzled, and Black, after a rough afternoon at Fairfax County jail. The social and racial inequities that contributed to her death still loom as the OneFairfax policy is extended throughout county government.

I wasn't thinking about racial inequity when I volunteered to help Sheriff Stacey Kinkaid manage what became a long hot summer of investigation, protests, and relentless adverse publicity. I wasn't even necessarily thinking about my civic duty: Here was a rare (unpaid) opportunity to work on a difficult case.

Natasha was a victim of several mental illnesses including depression. She died unexpectedly following a traumatic extraction from jail intended to enable her to get access to care, but that wound up with her being tased four times by a team of deputies. The entire episode was recorded. The Washington Post excoriated the Sheriff five (!) times editorially. I advocated a "let's-release-the-video-and-keep-our-heads-down" PR strategy that found a credible alternative villain in America's broken mental health system. An investigation found no wrongdoing.

But something very wrong obviously did happen, and my inability to grasp it fully in the moment will cause readers of color to shake their heads wearily at my clueless white privilege. I didn't get it: I believed (still do) the deputies involved meant Natasha no harm. I believed (still do) Sheriff Kincaid's human compassion matches her lifelong passion for public safety: The county's DiversionFirst program

she championed has become a national model.

Epiphany for me arrived in the form of the social theory of "intersectionality."

Well-known to people of color, intersectionality explains how categorizations such as race, class, gender, sex and disability create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Natasha was the personification of Intersectionality: She was Black ... naked, an inmate, indigent, a woman, and her mental condition seriously had deteriorated. Had I been in Natasha's place, would the outcome have been the same?

OneFairfax recognizes that, five years after Natasha's death, we as a community no longer can afford to be unaware about how inequitable life is in Fairfax. Public policy in housing, zoning, transportation, hiring, and in public safety job opportunities has long been infested. Many in our ever-more-diverse community suffer from one or more disadvantages attributable to intersectionality.

There is much to work on:

- ❖ Our unsustainable school boundaries remain unchanged, heavily weighted in favor of under-capacity wealthier, whiter school districts, poorer districts strain at the seams.

- ❖ A person of color likely will not be hired as a school administrator here.

- ❖ Kids of color lag behind their white peers in academics, even as the schools become increasingly diverse.

- ❖ And, incredibly, in parts of our affluent community there is no reliable source of food.

- ❖ Five years after Natasha's death, and ten years after they started work, dedicated leaders, residents and businesses still seek an elu-

sive solution to the intractable shortage of affordable housing. Decades of discriminatory official government policy take time to reverse.

The research underlying OneFairfax reveals that when equity becomes part of the premise of public policymaking, positive results follow. This finding is all the more potent when we recognize that individuals who once were known collectively as "minorities" soon will be the majority in Fairfax: we need all hands on deck if we want to continue to thrive.

Fortunately, "equity" already is a routine component of county decisionmaking. The pursuit of equity does not require that people of color or underserved residents receive special treatment or quotas that reduce someone else's slice of the pie, only that they have an equal opportunity to pursue their own potential. Here in Fairfax we have lots of pies.

The question of how Natasha McKenna died will always be controversial. But we know why she died. Racial and social inequity, whether it is rooted in virulent racism or clueless white privilege, has long outlived its cruelty, or for that matter its usefulness, to Fairfax.

I will never be "woke," but at least I'm awake. Today I offer my volunteer time to citizens' groups including the OneFairfax Community Roundtable, the Human Services Council and the Council to End Domestic Violence. Many opportunities abound for residents – you, for example — to boost Fairfax County's future as a great place to live, work and play, by rallying around equity and fairness in public policy.

Natasha McKenna left behind a seven-year-old daughter. Let's do this for her.

The writer is a member of Human Services Council Fairfax County; Member, Steering Committee Council to End Domestic Violence; Chairman of the Board of Directors Shelter House, Inc. and Member OneFairfax Community Roundtable.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

Westfield JV Basketball Coach Jamie Shepherd is awarded a plaque for his 20 years as a Westfield coach.

Cougars Beat Bulldogs, 56-41

Oakton's Winson Aja-Omu scores 27 points.

The Westfield Bulldogs hosted the Oakton Cougars on Feb. 6.

The Cougars jumped out to an early double digit lead in the opening quarter, 14-4. Winson Aja-Omu scored 6 points in the quarter for Oakton. Chase Whippon and Samuel Johnson each had a basket for the Bulldogs.

In the second quarter, Westfield's Noah Kim would score 10 of his team's 16 points. Oakton would add 13 points behind Aja-Omu's 8 points, giving Oakton a 27-20 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter Aja-Omu would score 8 of Oakton's 14 points. Westfield's Kyle Whippon would add 5 points for the quarter, while teammate Will Vetter would add 3 points. With a quarter remaining Oakton's lead was 41-28.

Westfield would score 13 points in the fourth, with Kyle Whippon leading the way with 7 points and finishing with a team high 12 points for the game. Winson Aja-Omu would tally 6 more points in the



Kyle Whippon led Westfield with 12 points in a game with Oakton.



Westfield's Will Vetter pulls up for a jump shot.

quarter to finish the game with a team and game high 27 points.

With the 56-41 win Oakton improves to (10-10) (3-4). Westfield falls to (6-14) (1-5).

—WILL PALENSCAR

ROUNDUPS

Have Coffee with a Cop

Officers from the Sully District Police Station are always happy to have relaxed, informal chats with local residents about whatever is on their minds. And those wishing to do so may go to the Starbucks at 4412 Chantilly Place in Chantilly, on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to participate in "Coffee with a Cop."

Paint Rocks with Cops

All ages are welcome at the Sully District Police Station's "Kindness Rock" event, this Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. People will paint rocks with cheerful images and encouraging words to brighten the day of whoever finds them. Rocks and painting supplies will be available, but participants are welcome to bring their own, as well. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/rockswithcops2>.

COMMUNITY

Community Events to Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month (also called African American History Month), a national tribute recognizing the achievements of African Americans throughout history, and Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) is joining the celebration with special events at our Community Centers, Senior Centers and Teen Centers.

The events include:

❖ Black History Celebration in Alexandria

Held Saturday, Feb. 8, 2-6 p.m. at Gum Springs Community Center

Featuring entertainment plus an entrepreneurship-focused presentation on the principles of starting and maintaining a business.

❖ Black History Panel Discussion in Lorton

Thursday, Feb. 20, 11 a.m. at Lorton Senior Center

Featuring African American leaders from diverse industries.

❖ 2020 Black History Program at the Government Center

Friday, Feb. 21, 6 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Forum

Featuring a keynote by County Executive Bryan Hill and a special performance by the South County Teen Center Step Team. Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria is providing transportation to this event for members.

❖ Black History Program and History Gallery in Falls Church

Saturday, Feb. 22, noon at Bailey's Community Center History Gallery opens at noon; program featuring music, dancing, poetry and guest speakers begins at 2 p.m.

❖ Black History Dinner Program in Alexandria

Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-8 p.m., at South County Teen Center

❖ Black History Reception in Falls Church

Date to be announced at James Lee Community Center

To view activity calendars and addresses for individual centers, visit the NCS website.

RSVP-Northern Virginia Hosting 'Art of Volunteering in Retirement'

RSVP-Northern Virginia, the region's largest volunteer network for those 55-years-old or better, is offering a free seminar titled "The Art of Volunteering in Retirement," Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., at the offices of Northern Virginia Family Service in Oakton. The one-hour event is free and open to the public.

To sign up for the March 12 event, email RSVP Volunteer Specialist Shannon White swhite@volunteerfairfax.org, call RSVP at 703-403-5360 or sign up online at <http://bit.ly/RSVPoakton>. Northern Virginia Family Service is located at 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, in Oakton.

Several of RSVP's nonprofit partners offer opportunities in the Oakton Area including Oak Marr RECenter, JA Finance Park and the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna.

RSVP provides free personalized support to seniors and retirees who are seeking convenient, social, fun and meaningful service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers more than 300 meaningful opportunities that include helping seniors age in place, assisting local food pantries, and teaching financial literacy.

RSVP members enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings.

To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org. RSVP-Northern Virginia is a program of Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Alexandria and Volunteer Arlington.

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Announcements

Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. The program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2020-2021 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

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COMMENTARY

New Deal for Virginia

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



Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president when the entire country was in the midst of what historians term the Great Depression. His solution to the widespread economic and social challenges that existed at the time was the establishment of programs and services that became known as the New Deal.

Virginia had fallen behind in responding to many economic and social challenges until the voters in 2019 signaled with their votes that they were ready for changes. Those changes are coming in what I described in my column last week as "dazzling" speed. This week I will give many more examples. I am highlighting bills that have been passed by the House of Delegates but still must be passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. I feel certain that there will not be major differences between the actions of the House and Senate.

Virginians supported candidates in the election that wanted to end discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation. The House responded last week by passing a bill that ends discrimination in housing, accommodations, employment, and others forms of discrimination. It is the first such bill to pass in a southern state and is one of the most comprehensive of any in the country. I was honored to be a co-patron of the bill and pleased that my bill to extend protections of the hate crime law to all persons regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity also passed.

A bill to raise the minimum wage is making its way through the House with multi-year steps to get to \$15 per hour. My minimum wage bill that I have been introducing for many years was incorporated into the bill that is headed for passage. Immigrant workers that need a driver's permit to get to work will be able to get one under a bill before the House. For the last several decades there have been a series of laws designed to make it more difficult for a woman to have access to an abortion when necessary, but those laws are being repealed. Likewise, a number of laws that have made it more cumbersome and difficult to register and vote have been repealed.

Bills to clean up our environment are passing this year including a bill I introduced to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The Governor's goal for the state to become carbon neutral by 2050 is being incorporated into energy legislation that makes way for more solar and wind power. Some advocates called their efforts the "Green New Deal." While the omnibus bill that incorporated their goals into a single piece of legislation did not pass as it was found impossible to determine its fiscal impact, I believe that most if not all of their goals will have been met when the many other bills with a narrower focus that have passed are considered. The advocacy of the Green New Deal members was very important in getting the many other single-purpose bills passed.

I have not exhausted the list of good bills that are passing. What is happening in Richmond this session is a really good new deal for people in the Commonwealth!

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Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Possible Zoning Changes Meeting. 7:30 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. The purpose of the meeting is to inform residents and obtain feedback on the County's proposed Agritourism Zoning Ordinance Amendment, the addition of a Rural Resort use, and changes to the requirements for ADUs. This is a meeting regarding possible zoning changes to the Fairfax County zoning rules which will impact the entire Clifton area. For details on the watershed:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/watersheds>

MONDAY/FEB. 24

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. At Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. Featuring speaker Pete Kirby, Retired Fire Chief, Centreville Fire Department, who will speak on fire prevention and response. The cost of the luncheon is \$18.15 which includes tax and a small gratuity.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Sully District Council Meets. 7 p.m. At Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Topic: Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Speaker: President and CEO, Victor Hoskins.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Kindergarten Registration. 12:30-3:30 p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School will conduct its Kindergarten Registration on Tuesday, March 3 from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Parents may also call 571-522-6008 to schedule an appointment. Forms and other information are available on line at: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements>

Due to the time required to register your child, they request that only parents come to school for registration.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Kindergarten Registration. Brookfield Elementary School will host a kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2020, and are living within the Brookfield Elementary School boundaries should contact the school at 703-814-8700 in order to make a registration appointment. Parents must bring the following documents to the registration appointment:

- ❖ child's original birth certificate;
- ❖ current physical;
- ❖ immunization record;
- ❖ proof of residence (current deed or lease);
- ❖ parent picture i.d.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Sully District Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. At Sully Governmental Center, McDonnell Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Join Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, School Board Member Stella Pekarsky, The Sully District Council, and Budget Staff from Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools to discuss the FY 2021 budgets for FCPS and Fairfax County. Email: sully@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-814-7100.

GREENDROP DONATION CENTER OPENS

GreenDrop, the organization revolutionizing charitable giving, has opened its Centreville donation center. The second site in Fairfax County will provide residents an easy way to declutter their homes and earn tax deductions early. Located behind Chipotle and Bonefish Grill, the company began accepting donations on Jan. 1, at 6317 Multiplex Drive in Centreville. The donations will provide critical funding for recognized, national charity partners including American Red Cross, Military Order of the Purple Heart and National Federation of the Blind.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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All Gowned Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

All Gowned UpAnd somewhere to go, or so I thought. I had checked in at the front desk. I was given a number, and almost immediately, it was called. I said good-bye to Team Lourie and was led back to a staging area (beds, curtains, doctors, nurses) where I was told I would see them both before surgery. There I was given a gown, no-slip socks and a hair net to change into, and instructed to place all my clothes (underwear, too) into two plastic bags and then told to pull back the privacy curtain and lie back on the bed.

Within a few minutes a female nurse, part of a very attentive and conscientious staff, began to attend me. She started an I.V. in my left forearm, wrapped a blood pressure cuff around my right bicep and then stuck half-a-dozen or so EKG contacts over the front me and down my legs to monitor my heart. In addition, the typical other vitals: oxygen, pulse and temperature were taken. At that point, it appeared that I had passed muster. My surgeon stopped by for a brief visit and all was progressing normally. Until that is when the anesthesiologist came by for what I thought was the final step. It was the final step alright. She said that “due to an abundance of caution,” she was uncomfortable proceeding with the surgery. She explained that the facility (not a hospital) where I was to undergo the surgery, was not fully equipped to respond to certain potential complications which might occur which involved a breathing tube, a ventilator and the weakness of my lungs, so she sent me packing (unpacking actually). Disappointed, as you might imagine, we all left the facility and waited for further instructions.

By the end of the day, arrangements had been made to reschedule my surgery at a local hospital on Wednesday, a mere two day delay. I could live with that. At home, I resumed my post-shower, pre-surgery, infection-preventing scrub as I had for the previously scheduled surgery. This time surgery was scheduled for 1:30 pm instead of the 10:50 am it had been on Monday. Still, if all went well, I could be released that same day, under someone else's recognition of course, given the late hour, but likely recuperating at home in my own bed.

On Wednesday, I arrived at the hospital two hours before surgery as directed and began the now familiar process. Once again I was prepped and ready. This time there were no slip-ups. Around 2:15 I was wheeled into the operating room and introduced to the staff on hand. I was asked my name, date of birth and the reason for surgery that day. Answering correctly, the next step involved an oxygen mask coming down over my nose and mouth and being asked to breathe normally, which I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It turned out that the anesthesiologist was right to be cautious. My four-hour outpatient surgery turned into a seven-hour admission-to-the-hospital major surgery with complications. Due to my “Adam's Apple” tumor being embedded into/under my collarbone, a thoracic surgeon was brought into consult about possibly cracking open my chest to get at the remaining cancer. Fortunately, a decision was made not to do so and I was wheeled back to recovery and eventually to my room for the night where at 12:35 am, while lying in my bed, my eyes opened and I saw my wife, Dina and close friend, Rita, who had stayed into the wee hours in an amazing show of support.

The next day, after an uncomfortable night in my hospital bed, I was discharged, four hours after the process began. (As you may or may not know, getting discharged from the hospital is hardly a straight line from your hospital room to your curbside pick up.) I was given instructions, prescriptions and follow-up appointments. My thyroid gland, parathyroid, “Adam's Apple” tumor and a few lymph nodes stayed behind. Can't say that I miss any of them. Still, my body may miss them so I'll likely have some post-op work to do at home. Nevertheless, progress has been made for which I'm grateful.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Beginning English Conversation. Fridays 10:30-12:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Drop-in conversation group for ESL speakers who want to improve their skills. Adults. No registration required. Fridays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-830-2223. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6119888>

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.

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. 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>

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 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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Travel the Forgotten Road. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. These one-hour, outdoor walking tours cover the original outbuildings and slave quarter at Sully that were used during the late 18th century. Tours take place at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily, except on Tuesdays, during special events, or when there is severe weather. Call the site to confirm the tour status. The tour cost is \$8 for adults; \$7 for students age 16 and older with ID; \$6 for children age 5-15; and \$6 for seniors age 65 and older. Tours of the historic house will not be available through May because of ongoing structural repair and maintenance work. The rest of the historic site is open. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Following Mosby Thru Fauquier County. 4-6 p.m. At the Sully District Government Center, Frank Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Join authors Don Hackenson and Chuck Mauro as they describe the exploits of Colonel John S. Mosby in Fauquier County during the Civil War and discover sites that still remain today. Mosby is among the more complex historical figures of

Capital Remodel and Garden Show

George Olphant will highlight the Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

FEB. 21-23

Capital Remodel and Garden Show. From 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. An ongoing schedule of home remodeling and landscape experts conducting seminars will be carried out throughout the three-day event. George Olphant, "George to the Rescue," will be the headliner. Tickets are \$12 Box Office adult admission; \$9 Adult online admission; \$3 Children age 6-12, Children 5 and under free. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://capitalremodelandgarden.com/>



Super Pet Expo

Hermit crabs will be one of the highlights at the Super Pet Expo at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

MARCH 20-22

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Fri., Mar 20 – 3-8 p.m.; Sat. Mar. 21 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. March 22 - 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$13; Children age 4-12 \$8, age 3 and under – Free. The family-friendly event will feature more than 200 pet-related exhibits along with entertainment and educational activities. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Tickets: www.superpetexpo.com

the Civil War. Known as the "Grey Ghost" the romantic lore surrounding him is consistent with the "Lost Cause" interpretations of the war. Yet Mosby himself denied this view of the war and suffered for it. Presented by the Historic Centreville Society. Light refreshments will be served. Free. Email CentrevilleFHC@gmail.com

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 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 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, 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 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 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 for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villaggio, 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.

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.

ASL Conversation Practice Group – Practice using American Sign Language in a relaxed, informal group. Teens and Adults. No registration required. Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 pm. Call 703-830-2223 for more info.

Beginning English Conversation Group - Drop-in conversation group for ESL speakers who want to improve their skills. Adults. No registration required. Fridays 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Call 703-830-2223 for more info.