

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

Bob Hatfield of Vienna protests gun violence at the National Rifle Association Feb. 14, 2019 on the anniversary of a Valentine's Day massacre that killed 17 people and injured 17 more in 2018 at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Fla. For seven years, the 80-year-old retired management consultant was a pillar in the local gun violence prevention community. He died Jan. 16 from complications of cancer treatment.



Gun Violence Prevention Activist Remembered

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Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Presented by The Alden



Midday Movies:
Foreign-Language Films
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m.
Free admission

Take a Day Away



McLean Traveler
2020 Philadelphia Flower Show
Monday, March 2
\$144 per person
\$139 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse



Teacher Workday Trip
Indoor Trampoline & Movie
Tuesday, March 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Unruly Theatre Project
Improv Performance
Friday, March 6, 7 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden



Movies for Children and Families
Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 p.m.
In the Community Hall
Free admission

Making Memories



Father-Daughter Enchanted
Evening Dance
Friday, March 13, 7-8:30 p.m.
\$25 per participant



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101



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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Volunteer for the Environment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Join in working to combat climate change and global warming. Activities include campaigning on massive data centers and fighting oil and gas pipelines in Virginia. Come be part of the solutions. Free. Email sbonney001@aol.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Brain and Breathing. 10-11 a.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. In this course, you will learn breathing exercises designed to help support brain function. Instructor: Dr. Charles Masarsky of Vienna Chiropractic. Free. Call 701-255-7801.

Adventures in Learning. 10 a.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. "Let it Go-Dealing With the Emotional Connection to Items" - Terri Blanchette. Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538. View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

Acoustic Autumn Live Music. 6:30-9 p.m. At Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Laissez Fouré is an acoustic swing quartet playing classics from the '30s and '40s. The group consists of acoustic bass, swing rhythm guitar, saxophone/clarinet, and trumpet. In the tradition of New Orleans jazz, the quartet emphasizes an acoustic sound when feasible and plays charts by Armstrong, Ellington, Count Basie and others from the era.

The ABCs of CBD and Medical Marijuana. 7:30-9 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. The discussion will provide medical information about CBD/THC, the differences between CBD and medical marijuana, and how people can legally obtain medical marijuana in Virginia. Free. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5843108>

FEB. 20 TO MARCH 1

ReelAbilities Film Festival. The 8th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Northern Virginia, powered by the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, will present a lineup of 17 films in select venues across Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District from Feb. 20-March 1. The festival is comprised of contemporary international films and post-film programs as well as a fine arts exhibit, all selected to be engaging, empowering, and championing the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. Visit the website <https://www.thej.org/reel-abilities/reelabilities-film-festival-northern-virginia/>

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

Karate for Kids. 5 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join the Karate to gain powerful tools for self-defense, inner-strength and a strong, healthy body. Ages 4 and up.

Young Adult Game Night. 7:30 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Guests will gather in the chapel for some games, snacks, and fellowship. Please bring friends and games you are interested in playing. We can't wait for a little healthy competition. Call 703-356-7200. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/>



WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Ash Wednesday Worship. 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. At the Vienna Metro Station. Holy Comforter brings church to you! If you don't have time to attend an Ash Wednesday worship service, but would like to have ashes imposed on you, try Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday at the Vienna Metro Station in Fairfax Virginia. The Rev. Jon Strand and the Rev. Ann Gillespie will be there from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. with ashes and blessings to go.



Nora Jane Struthers Concert

Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers with Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

Nora Jane Struthers Concert. 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers is a rootsy artist with a bent toward mixing traditional country and contemporary rock stylings into her passionate Americana sound. Also on stage, Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit www.jamminjava.com

young-adult-game-night/

Nora Jane Struthers Concert. 8 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Nashville-based singer/songwriter Nora Jane Struthers is a rootsy artist with a bent toward mixing traditional country and contemporary rock stylings into her passionate Americana sound. Also on stage, Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit www.jamminjava.com

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Storytime with Officer Twombly.

11 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Enjoy stories read by a real life police officer! All ages.

Getting out of Debt. 2 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Are you 100% sure that you will have a great retirement, or do you have some doubt? They can show you how to get out of debt including your mortgage and personal loans in 9 years or less without spending any additional money. Adults.

Andrew Goddard leads a question and answer segment Jan. 26 at a discussion about gun violence held on a Sunday afternoon in the chapel of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax at 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/
THE CONNECTION

Gun Violence Prevention Activist Remembered

Social justice warrior missed by fellow GVP activists.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Nearly 40 people participated in a free film and discussion about gun violence on a Sunday afternoon Jan. 26 in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax at 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.

Led by gun violence prevention activist Andrew L. Goddard, the film documents the recovery of a young man — his son, Colin Goddard — who was shot four times April 16, 2007 during French class at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg:

Participants at the Jan. 26 film and discussion watched “Living for 32” filmed in 2010. The short documentary shows Colin Goddard’s survival story, long road to recovery and how easy it is to buy weapons at gun shows in America without showing identification or undergoing background checks.

Since the Virginia Tech shooting, both Goddard men have worked tirelessly as gun violence prevention activists. “Living for 32” shows Colin Goddard’s work for The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. He was the go-to guy for television news commentary in the wake of subsequent mass shootings that have occurred since the Dec. 14, 2012 massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

This presentation was very near and dear to the heart of Vienna resident Bob Hatfield, who helped plan the Jan. 26 event. He is one of several grassroots activists who have met each month in a peaceful and nonviolent manner at the National Rifle Association in Fairfax since Dec. 14, 2012 — when a 20-year-old gunman killed 20 school children and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The 81-year-old retired management consultant died Jan. 16 at the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he underwent treatment for pancreatic cancer. He left behind his wife, Joy Hatfield, and their three grown children.

Bob and Joy Hatfield were married 51 years and lived in Vienna nearly 34 years. They attended UUCF, where Bob Hatfield volunteered for church’s gun violence prevention committee. He helped organize a bus trip each January on Martin Luther King Day to



Jim Sollo, 75, of Fairfax watches a short documentary Jan. 26 about Colin Goddard, who was shot four times April 16, 2007 in French class at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg. Filmed in 2010, “Living for 32” shows Goddard’s difficult road to recovery and the education he received working as a gun violence prevention activist for The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

the statehouse in Richmond for the annual anti-gun violence rally, where fellow activists honor the slain civil rights leader by calling on Virginia lawmakers to pass “sensible” gun legislation.

The subject was on his mind as he lay on his deathbed, his wife said Jan. 20. The last thing he said wasn’t a word but a number, Joy Hatfield said: “Twenty-six.”

Later on, when Joy Hatfield looked at her husband’s calendar, she realized her husband wanted her to remember the “Living for 32” film and discussion Jan. 26. It was her late husband’s swan song and the event started with a tribute to Bob Hatfield. UUCF minister Rev. David A. Miller told the audience Bob Hatfield never stopped reminding him “the NRA is less than a half mile from my house.”

Fellow GVP activist Kris Gregory, who has worked with Bob since the start of their seven-year protest of the NRA describes Hatfield as a pillar in their advocacy.

“The arc of history is long but it bends toward justice” Gregory states Jan. 20 at a candlelight vigil on MLK Day and adds: “Bob gave it a good, hard tug.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A photo from last year’s event.

Vienna Church to Hold ‘Drive-Thru Ashes’

Commuters and area residents are invited to take part in the “Drive-Thru Ashes” event on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) in Vienna. Pastor Eric Song will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the church at 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., to administer ashes and distribute copies of the church’s 21st annual Devotions for Lent publication.

“Ash Wednesday is a reminder of our humanity as we begin our Lenten journey,” Song said. “We want to provide the community a convenient way to participate in the imposition of ashes, and our ‘drive-thru ashes’ is open to all. We’ll also serve coffee and cookies and hand out our 2020 Lenten devotional booklets.”

Good Shepherd will hold a traditional Ash Wednesday service at the church at 7:30 p.m.

Members of the church also will be on hand in the morning and evening to distribute copies of its Lenten devotional booklet.

“We understand that not everyone shares the same faith tradition,” said Song in a letter in the booklet. “Our hope for this devotional is to be a good

neighbor to you and to share stories that have helped us in our lives. Our friends and families have graciously spent their time to submit short daily devotions that reflect a loving God in their lives. We have included beautiful artwork from our children as well.”

The 21st annual Devotions for Lent will be available on the church’s website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com. The church also will post each day’s devotion on its Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/goodshepherdvienna. Printed copies will be mailed to neighborhoods surrounding the church, and a limited number of copies will be available at the church. Additionally, the church holds weekly gatherings in members’ homes to discuss the devotionals.

The Church of the Good Shepherd’s Sunday worship service is at 10:15 a.m., and Sunday school for children and adults is at 9 a.m.

For more information, call the church office at 703-281-3987 or visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com or its Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/goodshepherdvienna.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Adventures in Learning. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.
10 - 10:55 a.m. “Let it Go-Dealing With the Emotional Connection to Items” - Terri Blanchette;
11 - 11:55 a.m. “History of Popular Music - South of the Potomac” - Ken Avis “Real Downton Abbey and Surrounding Neighborhood” - John Capps;
1-2 p.m. “Media Bias and Impact of Technology” - Steve Miska;
Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538.

View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

Parenting Your Teen. 10 a.m. to noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn important strategies to help form a positive relationship with your teen. Topics include: Understanding the development of the teen brain;

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

OPINION

Black History Month 2020

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



A tradition in the House of Delegates that has come about in recent years is to have a speech at the beginning of each daily session during February about a Black person. Some speeches are about well-known historic figures; most are about lesser-known Black persons who have made contributions to their communities and to the state. After all, the point of Black History Month is to have all of us gain a greater knowledge and appreciation of Black persons' contributions to our history. The Legislative Black Caucus organizes the event, and I am pleased to have been invited to speak each year at one of the daily sessions. This year I spoke about the late Gwen Ifill of PBS NewsHour and Washington Week in Review who was the first Black woman to become a national news commentator. I always appreciated receiving the daily news from her in her calm and professional manner. Not all speeches are about historic figures; one delegate spoke

this year about his experiences of growing up Black.

I predict that in future years a speech will be made on the floor of the House of Delegates about the 2020 Virginia General Assembly being a transformative event in Black history. Black experience accounts for a major portion of the story in a state that unfortunately has been known for centuries for its racist policies. The first enslaved Africans were brought to Virginia in 1619, and the slave codes that were enacted to keep them subjected as slaves were inhumane. When the tobacco fields were no longer productive, Virginia's chief source of income became the selling of slaves into the deep South. Even the freeing of the slaves with the Civil War did not bring equal rights to Virginia's Black population. Slave codes were replaced by Jim Crow laws. Voting by Blacks was restricted. Their separate schools and other accommodations were not equal.

Supreme Court decisions and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 brought about changes that started Black people on the way to greater freedom. A suc-

cessful lawsuit against gerrymandering in the state along with greater voter participation brought about a record number of Black candidates being elected to the General Assembly. Black legislators took on greater roles of responsibility in the 2020 session of the legislature. The first Black woman was elected Majority Leader of the House of Delegates, and the first Black woman was elected President of the State Senate. While there had been a few Black committee chairs over the years in the House of Delegates, half of the fourteen committee chairs are now Black. Vestiges of Jim Crow laws that remained in the Code even though they had been overturned by the courts are being stripped away. Localities are being given permission to deal with Confederate monuments that were the symbols of Jim Crowism. Laws that were unevenly applied to Black persons are being amended or repealed. Black cemeteries are being cared for as the Confederate cemeteries were for many years. A commission is going to look at the teaching of Black history in our schools to ensure that it tells the whole story. Major strides are being made in this month of Black history!

Arriving at Crossover with Many Bills Moving

Driver privilege, minimum wage, class action lawsuits, marijuana decriminalization ...

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL
(D-36)



The sixth week of the General Assembly brought us to "crossover" – the day each chamber is required to cease work on their own bills and work on bills from the other chamber.

The last two days brought furious action on many major bills. Forty-three of my own bills crossed over to the House of Delegates. Last week, the Senate passed my legislation creating driver privilege cards for undocumented immigrants for the first time and on a bipartisan basis. We still have work to do in order to reconcile the House and Senate bills, but it will change the lives of over 100,000 Virginia residents.

We also passed my legislation authorizing state-level class action lawsuits. Forty-eight other states and the District of Columbia already allow similar lawsuits. The lack of such remedies in Virginia means that corporations can steal money from Virginians in smaller amounts and never face justice.

The Senate also approved my bill allowing people to expunge evictions that have been dismissed. Companies have begun to collect and disseminate eviction records to landlords and the existence of multiple dismissed and unfounded eviction cases can present a barrier to property rental. My bill will allow people to clear unfounded lawsuits from their third party data files.

We also passed my bill to create the Virginia

Efficient and Resilient Buildings Board. It requires each state agency to designate an energy manager to monitor and reduce energy consumption over time. Energy efficiency is America's cheapest energy resource to access and I appreciate the collaboration with my constituent Elizabeth Beardsley and the United States

Green Buildings Council who brought this concept to my attention.

The Senate also approved my bill I am carrying with Del. Kathleen Murphy to create two hundred \$4,000 college scholarships for children in families who receive Temporary Need for Families (TANF). The bill has passed the Senate four times but always dies in the House. This year will be different.

Beyond my own bills, we took action on majority legislation. Sen. Adam Ebbin's marijuana decriminalization bill passed with a large bipartisan majority. The bill is not perfect, but an appropriate first step as we move towards legalization.

I helped to negotiate the Senate's proposed minimum wage increase. The bill increases the state minimum wage to \$9.50/hour starting January 1, 2021. The wage then increases \$1/hour per year starting July 1, 2022 until it reaches \$15/hour and then increases with the Consumer Price Index. Other parts of Virginia would be divided into Wage Regions and the wage increased on a basis relative to their Median Family Income compared with Northern Virginia. We also created an exemption for training employees and students employed

part-time while in college or high school. The House approach is much different and must be reconciled.

Both chambers passed legislation allowing collective bargaining by public employees, ending Virginia's ban on project labor agreements, and allowing localities to require prevailing wages to be paid in public contracts. We also passed legislation creating private actions for worker misclassification, employer retaliation for reporting illegal conduct, and wage theft.

On the energy front, we passed bills endorsing a renewable energy portfolio standard or mandate that utilities shift to renewable energy by certain deadlines. We created a framework to authorize a \$2 billion investment in offshore wind that will make Virginia and Hampton Roads a national leader in technology deployment.

We also passed legislation to officially join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) also known as "Reggie." Joining this compact will give the Commonwealth greater flexibility in reducing carbon emissions and net the Commonwealth \$100 million per year in revenue given the progress we have made this far relative to other compact states.

We also passed Senator Adam Ebbin's legislation authorizing a statewide tax on plastic bags of \$0.05 per bag. It only applies to bags in grocery, convenience, and drug stores, but not restaurants. The monies will go to the General Fund and retailers will be allowed to keep \$0.02 of the tax to defray the costs of collection.

Each chambers' proposed budgets will come out before this goes to print and we will also begin work on legislation from the opposite chamber and the state budget. Please send me any feedback at scott@scottsurovell.org.

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from Feb. 7 – Feb. 13, 2020.

INCIDENTS

Forgery — 100 Block Battle Street, SE Jan. 9 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. A resident reported that a check she was mailing to her lawn service was stolen from the mailbox. The check was then forged and cashed.

Civil Dispute — 101 Church Street, NW Feb. 4, 12 p.m. The property owner advised a citizen was driving into the parking lot when she dislodged a brick planter with her vehicle, causing damage to the brick. The owner is now concerned that the woman will not pay for the damages.

Fraud — 1400 Block Ross Drive, SW Feb. 6 between 9 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. A resident reported that an unknown person hacked his bank account and cashed several electronic checks.

Arrest – Drunk In Public — Courthouse Road and Courthouse Circle, SW Feb. 7, 5:26 a.m. Officers responded to the report of a woman standing in the roadway, interfering with traffic. Upon the officers' interaction with the

woman, they detected signs of impairment. MPO Smith arrested the 31-year-old woman from Courthouse Circle, SW, Vienna. She was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Drunk In Public.

Arrest – Drunk In Public — 425 Maple Avenue, East Feb. 7, 1:33 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a man bothering customers at the shopping center. Upon the officers' interaction with the man, they detected signs of impairment. Ofc. Gucwa arrested the 47-year-old man, who has no fixed address. The man was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Drunk In Public.

Trespassing — Subway Restaurant 222 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 7, 10:02 p.m. An employee reported a man who was acting suspiciously in front of the restaurant, making the staff feel uncomfortable. Officers located the man in the area. The man advised he was homeless and wanted a ride to the hospital to receive treatment for a pre-existing injury. Rescue responded to the scene and transported the man to an area hospital. The employee trespassed the man from the restaurant.

Suspicious Person — 100 Block Shepherdson Lane, NE Feb. 7, 10:45 p.m. A resident reported that a man she had recently ended a relationship with was at her house. While responding to the call, officers observed the man driving at a high rate of speed and initiated a traffic stop. The man was advised that the resident requested he has no further contact with her.

Lost Property — Giant Food, 359 Maple Avenue, East Feb. 8, 10:46 p.m. An employee lost his cell phone in the store.

Arrest – Drunk In Public — Sunoco 102 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 9, 7:16 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a suspicious person inside the gas station. Upon the officers' interaction with the man, they detected signs of impairment. Ofc. McElhattan arrested the 38-year-old man from East Street, NE, Vienna. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Drunk In Public.

Domestic Dispute — Johnson Street, SW Feb. 10, 10:03 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a domestic dispute between the residents and their teenage son. The juvenile calmed down after speaking with the officers.

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News

Catholic Charities Gala Raises Funds to Help Those in Need

On Feb. 7, 2020, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington held its 38th Annual Ball at The Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner. The event was sold out with more than 1,000 attendees. It is the largest annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities, raising a significant portion of the resources needed to support 21 programs serving those in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese. This year's theme was, "With Love and Charity."



PHOTO BY JENIFER MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHY.

Attendees Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Laura Bennett.

"I am incredibly grateful for yet another successful Catholic Charities Ball, and for the sacrifices those in attendance made to support the many Catholic Charities ministries which uplift the needy and vulnerable in our Diocese," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Catholic Diocese of Arlington. "It is inspiring to see so many people compelled to model Christ's own love for us through generosity and faith. They have shown tre-

mendous compassion and opened their hearts to the light of Christ's message. The Catholic Charities Ball has a long tradition of helping those in need through the generosity of those who attend. I pledge my continued support for the Ball and pray that we only increase the number of people we serve in years to come."

For more information, visit www.cdda.net.

Announcements

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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

FROM PAGE 3

Recognizing ways to create a positive climate in the home;
Identifying constructive discipline approaches;
Increasing more productive and effective communication strategies;
Presented by Michele Tureaud, FCPS Behavior Intervention Teacher.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Career and Transition Meeting. 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. It is never too early or too late to start planning for a successful transition from school life to life as a young adult. Learn about Career and Transition Services (CTS) programming and course options for students with disabilities. Breakout sessions will cover:

In-school as well as postsecondary support services. Employment and postsecondary education considerations. Student self-determination as an evidence-based predictor of post school success.

MONDAY/FEB. 24

Possible Arts Center at Clemyjontri Park. 7 p.m. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will host a public open house to discuss the potential for development of an arts and education center at Clemyjontri Park. The meeting will take place in MPA's Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center, located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Town Hall Meeting. 7-9 p.m. At James Madison High School, Lecture Hall, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna. With Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Adventures in Learning. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.
10- 10:55 a.m. "The Joy of Planning Ahead" - Rachel McLean;
11 - 11:55 a.m. "Generational Differences for Personality Traits" - Bill Weech;
1-2 p.m. "Journey to the Top of the World"- Colonel Phil Walsh;
Cost is \$45 per semester. To Register/Questions: Call 703-281-0538. View the schedule of classes and registration form at <http://www.scov.org/ail-open-house>.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Resident Curator Proposal for Lahey Lost Valley. 7 p.m. The Resident Curator Evaluation Team for the Lahey Lost Valley property will hold a public meeting at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place in Oakton. This meeting provides an opportunity for the applicant to present a proposal to the evaluation team in a public forum. This will be the evaluation team's opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback to the applicant, and to receive public comment on each proposal. The Lahey Lost Valley House is a mid-18th-century brick hall-parlor house with a 1940s brick addition. The house is located on land granted to William Gunnell in 1730. His son Henry Gunnell, together with Henry's wife, Catherine, built a working plantation on the site by 1760. The Gunnell family were leaders in Fairfax County throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The family continued to own the property through the 1930s. Call 703-324-8791.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COMPLETE

A new traffic signal aimed at improving safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians is complete at Westpark Drive and Westbranch Drive in Tysons, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. The project's other safety improvements include:

- ❖ Four Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) crossings (expected to be active in the coming weeks);
- ❖ Bicycle detection;
- ❖ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramp upgrades;
- ❖ Pavement markings;
- ❖ Signage.

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One Step Forward, Hopefully Not Two Steps Backward



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And so, what happens next? There's calm and then there's an eventual storm. The storm to which I refer is what will happen after the March 2nd meeting with my endocrinologist when she will assess and determine the next step in my post-thyroidectomy treatment. Presumably, in conjunction with my oncologist, a coordinated plan will be implemented for treating my two cancers. I can't imagine however, that being treated for two cancers, simultaneously, will be easier than being treated for one. And I doubt, although I don't know, that one medicine will be recommended for the treatment of both my non-small cell lung cancer and my thyroid cancer. We'll know soon enough.

In the interim, I intend to acknowledge and appreciate how easy these next few weeks will be. No appointments with doctors, no diagnostic scans, no procedures, no medicine - and no side effects, and no lab work other than as needed, to measure my calcium and magnesium levels and any other thyroid-related effects. Moreover, I am free to come and go as I please. And it does please me. Because I've earned it. I deserve it and I'm going to bask in it. You think being a cancer patient under constant treatment - for nearly 11 years is in any way amusing? Hardly. I make fun of it to make light of it. Otherwise, the weight of it would crush me. And even though my father always said I had broad shoulders, I'm always fearful that the next result will be the straw that finally breaks this camel's back. After all, I'm only human.

But for now, February 9, as I sit and write, I am three weeks and one day to my next reckoning. And since it's early days yet to know what life will be like after that March 2nd appointment (radiation and/or chemotherapy possibly), I will try to be blissfully ignorant and not think too much how easy and unencumbered my life is at the present. As a cancer patient, ceding control where you can and securing it where you thought you couldn't are keys to managing expectations and minimizing aggravation. Unfortunately, there is no one key that unlocks all doors. And there are plenty of doors, and plenty of doctors too, and plenty of fear waiting for one of your doctors to walk through any of these doors to deliver the results from your most recent cancer-related whatever.

None of which concerns me right now, or rather it shouldn't. And if there's any port in this storm where I can offload some anxiety and get in a little R&R, literally, figuratively, hypothetically, magically, unexpectedly, I should jump at the chance. I am reminded of a conversation I had with my oncologist years ago when I experienced a similar interval between treatment. The medicine I was on had stopped working so we needed to start another, another with unknown benefits and side effects. My oncologist suggested that since I felt good, perhaps we should delay the beginning of the next infusion and that I should take that trip I had always dreamed of because I might never feel this good again. I didn't then and I won't now. When I jump however, I can barely get off the ground.

I haven't exactly been presented this time, with this kind of do-before-you-die opportunity, but there is an eerie familiarity to my circumstances. And though I've been down this road trying-to-find out before, I can't be at all certain to what kind of twists and turns await. The last thing a cancer diagnosis provides is a guarantee. Actually, that's wrong. A cancer diagnosis does provide a guarantee: that there are no guarantees. And so, as I prepare for the next phase of my life, the one that begins 11 years after being diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and being given a 13 month to two-year prognosis to boot, I will quote the late, great Satchel Paige: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."

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

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