

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

HOME LIFE STYLE

PAGE 6

Store manager, Julia Christophe, right, welcomes first customer, Mike Maloney, as Tina Choi holds the ceremonial ribbon at Lidl food store opening on Commerce Street in Springfield Wednesday, Feb. 19.



New Grocery Store Fills Vacant Lot in Springfield

NEWS, PAGE 12

Bloomberg Finds Support and Opposition in Virginia

NEWS, PAGE 3

Why a Regional Wage?

NEWS, PAGE 8

**Royal Ridge
Luxury Town Homes**
7880 Saint Dolores Drive, Lorton, VA
From \$549,800
703-933-3626

3 Levels 24' Wide
Open Floor Plan
2-Car Garage
Granite Island Kitchen
Finished Rec Room
8 Miles to 495
Open Noon-6PM
Back Yard!

McShayCommunities.com

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Let us know
about an
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

**Special Edition:
PET Connection**

Publishes:
Feb 26, 2020
Ads close:
Feb 20, 2020

The Pet Connection will publish on February 26 and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 20.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

**For Print & Digital Advertising Information:
Please Call 703.778.9431**

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Charlottesville Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Gloucester/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Henderson Connection
- Potomac Annapolis
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

JCC JUBILEECHRISTIANCENTER
"Loving People to Life"

Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups
Visit our Website: jccag.org

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170

**To Advertise Your
Community of Worship,
Call 703-778-9418**

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

- Master Plumber
- Master Electrician
- Master HVAC

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999

**2018 Angie's list
SUPER SERVICE
AWARD**

Free Estimates
703-999-2928 Visit our website: **www.twopoorteachers.com**

Bloomberg Finds Support and Opposition in Virginia

BY CONOR LOBB
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
RICHMOND, VA.

Roughly two weeks before Super Tuesday, former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.

The day after Valentine's Day, the Democratic presidential candidate campaigned around the city, stopping first for an afternoon speech at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery. The event attracted about 900 people, according to his campaign staff. In the evening, Bloomberg attended the Blue Commonwealth Gala at Main Street Station in downtown Richmond. The gala is an annual fundraiser hosted by the Democratic Party of Virginia.

"This is the event that keeps the lights on," said Andrew Whitley, executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Bloomberg also campaigned in Arlington earlier in the week, appearing with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. Bowser also appeared for Bloomberg at an event and straw poll at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) spoke for former Vice President Joe Biden at the Mount Vernon event. Bloomberg's campaign garnered 63 votes to win the straw poll there at the gala sponsored by the Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee. Amy Klobuchar was second with 24 votes, and Pete Buttigieg third with 22. Other votes were: Elizabeth Warren, 18; Bernie Sanders, 14; Joe Biden, 12.

During the Hardywood and Blue Commonwealth Gala events, Bloomberg apologized for the controversial stop-and-frisk policy in place when he was New York's mayor. He said the policy disproportionately affected young men of color. Stop and frisk is a procedure where a police officer stops a person on the street they believe might be armed and pats them down to search for weapons. In 2011, during Bloomberg's ninth year as mayor, the New York City Police Department stopped over 685,000 people under the stop-and-frisk policy, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union. A majority of those searches were performed on Black or Lantinx people (87%). The NYCLU said that 88 percent of people stopped were innocent.

"I defended it for too long, I think, because I didn't understand the unintended pain it caused to young black and brown kids and to their families," Bloomberg said. "And for that, I have apologized."

Bloomberg pledged that if elected, he'd prioritize dismantling systems of bias and oppression. He did not elaborate what those systems were or how he would change them.

The Virginia Citizens Defense League, a gun rights advocacy group, protested at both of Bloomberg's Richmond events. VCDL protesters, who are opposed to



PHOTO BY CONOR LOBB/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Presidential candidate and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer was master of ceremonies at a Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee (MVDDC) straw poll and Mardi Gras fundraiser Sunday. MVDDC chair Maritza Zermeno joins him on stage.

Bloomberg's gun control policy, entered Hardywood brewery and called Bloomberg a fascist while he was speaking. They were removed from the brewery by Bloomberg supporters and staff and resumed their post outside. They did not enter Main Street Station but lined the street outside, where other anti-Bloomberg protesters were gathered.

Anti-Bloomberg sentiment was also visible inside the gala. Jasmine Leeward, a board member of Richmond For All, approached the podium while Bloomberg was speaking and attached a sign that read: "He protects racist systems, will you?" It was

quickly taken down and Leeward was escorted away from the stage. Richmond For All is a coalition that fights for housing, education, environmental rights and racial justice.

Leeward explained the sign, saying that Bloomberg protects racist systems by only offering an apology and "not actually repaying for the harms that were caused by his stop-and-frisk policies."

"I saw a lot of politicians, both at the city and state level, kind of forgiving or not being truthful and honest about how dangerous he would be as a president," Leeward said. "And so I did what I felt like I needed

to do, which was to talk to the people who have the power to get him elected and ask them if they support racist systems and protect them, as I feel Mike Bloomberg does."

After the sign was removed, Bloomberg said, "It's always nice to be welcomed."

At the gala, six Democratic candidates for president were represented by surrogates, influential people who campaign for candidates at events, but Bloomberg was the only candidate who appeared. Virginia's key leaders were in attendance, including Gov. Ralph Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Attorney General Mark Herring, and Virginia Congresswomen Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton.

Bloomberg received support from Filler-Corn during her speech at the gala.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue," Filler-Corn said.

Bloomberg said winning in Virginia is a key part of his electoral strategy.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue."

— House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn

Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group largely funded by Bloomberg, has spent \$3.8 million since 2017 to help usher in Democratic legislators. After the 2019 elections, the Democrats gained a majority in Virginia's executive and legislative branches for the first time since the early '90s.

Bloomberg said that defeating President Donald Trump is one of the main reasons he entered the race.

Charles Bissett, an Army veteran who is leaning toward voting for Bloomberg, said that he thinks that Bloomberg will have the best chance of implementing Democratic policy. In particular, Bissett supports how Bloomberg handled education reform as mayor of New York.

Under Bloomberg's administration, the graduation rate for high school students went from less than half to nearly two-thirds, according to a 2013 article by *The Atlantic*. Bloomberg also said he raised teacher salaries in New York by 43 percent.

Bloomberg ranks third in an average of national polls for the Democratic presidential nomination, according to polling data from RealClearPolitics that also has Sen. Elizabeth Warren closely trailing him.

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@scottsuovell.org.

Springfield
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@SprConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

Virginia Teachers Need and Deserve Collective Bargaining Rights

To the Editor:

I am an elementary school teacher in Fairfax County who has been teaching for 27 years in Virginia's public schools. I know I speak for my colleagues in saying we all want what is best for our students and their families.

We see the effects of 31 third graders in a classroom or teaching positions staffed by a patchwork of substitutes because there just aren't any teacher applicants to fill them. We experience burn-out caused by administrative requirements, too little time to plan, and thus "burning the candle at both ends" due to our dedication towards providing well planned, meaningful lessons for our students. We also see the exodus of quality teachers due to such burnout.

Despite these challenges, we work closely with our students to further their successes and close gaps. But none of the conditions described above are conducive to student success.

Legislation currently moving through the Virginia state legislature would change that by enabling collective bargaining for teachers, which provides a forum for employers and employees to join together to tackle such problems through negotiation. Kudos to the majority of our state delegates who supported the collective bargaining bill for educators. I hope our state senators will support it as well!

The importance of access to collective bargaining for teachers cannot be overstated. It would give us a say in decisions regarding our students' education. It would help ensure that policies are applied and adhered to in the same way from school to school within a district. Most importantly, it would enable us to work collaboratively for the betterment of all, which is a win for educators, for students, for the school system and our communities.

Dan Hale
Fairfax County

Paving and Restriping Meetings for Hunter Mill, Springfield Districts Set for February

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold community meetings in every district of the county this spring with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to discuss proposed 2020 paving and restriping projects. The first meetings will be held in the Hunter Mill and Springfield Districts in February.

❖ The Hunter Mill District meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of Terraset Elementary School, 11411 Ridge Heights Road, Reston.

❖ The Springfield District meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of Liberty Middle School, 6801 Union Mill Road, Clifton.

The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 6:45 p.m., followed by time for questions, feedback and comments. For residents who cannot attend the meetings in person, the meeting presentation will be available on the District paving and restriping webpages, and feedback may be submitted online for two weeks following the meeting.

Sheehy Ford of Springfield Donates \$5,000 to Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Sheehy Ford of Springfield recently donated \$5,000 to Good Shepherd Catholic Church as part of Sheehy Auto Stores' annual Giving Program for 2019, whereby \$135,000 was given to charities throughout communities in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; Hagerstown, Maryland and Richmond, Virginia. Pictured, from left, are Maxx Manu of Sheehy Ford; Claudia Fiebig of Good Shepherd Catholic Church; Rev. Thomas P. Ferguson; Sina Mohabat, General Manager of Sheehy Ford; and Shane Mullins, Service and Parts Director for Sheehy Ford.



NEED A PLACE TO SHOOT?

Arlington-Fairfax IWLA is looking for new members.



The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is looking for a few new members to join our community.



We offer 110 acres of space, safe shooting facilities and a variety of conservation and outdoor activities for our members and guests.

Check out our website at
www.arlingtonfairfaxiwla.org

If you are interested in joining, send an email to:

ARLFXRECRUIT@yahoo.com

OR

Call 703-631-4495

Please leave your name and phone number and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We are located on Mt Olive Road in Centerville, VA

HOME SELLING simplified FREE SEMINAR



SAT JANUARY 11, 2020 10AM - 1PM
SAT FEBRUARY 22, 2020 10AM - 1PM

3918 PROSPERITY AVENUE
FAIRFAX VA 22031

presented by

DEBBIE DOGRUL
ASSOCIATES
LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE

www.TeamDDA.com 703-997-2545

Learn the answers to many common questions homeowners face as they prepare to sell their home. **Topics will include:**

Junk Removal

Estate Sale Services

Remodeling Options

What Buyers Look For

Cosmetic Updates and Fixes

Buying a New Home while selling your Current Home

The impact of Amazon HQ2 on home prices

Lunch will be provided.

Seating is limited - reserve your seats at ddaseminar.com

If your home is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not a solicitation of that listing



HOME LIFE STYLE

Traditional-Style Makeover Satisfies

A second act for family home.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes the second act requires a set change. In the case of a Reston couple seeking to re-vitalize the home they had occupied for 30 years, agenda-busy lives had come to a reflective pause.

The kids were now in senior high school and college—mostly living at home. The lower-level family entertainment area, meanwhile, belonged to a by-gone era. The master suite was, likewise, an anachronism.

The circa 1990s kitchen in the northwest corner of the first floor provided easy access to both an adjacent family room with fireplace, and a dining room/living room—which, nonetheless, were being used less frequently. In short: the house was ready for new beginnings, revisions more properly aligned to a dynamic family's actual needs.

"Of course, large-scale life changes don't necessarily require a whole house makeover," Sun Design president Bob Gallagher admits. "We advocate an incremental approach focused on what is needed now, and what changes will satisfy the whole regimen of foreseeable requirements."

On the other hand, when a homeowner is discovering an interior design style that speaks to them, "the process may build momentum," he adds, "especially when the owners have been given the tools needed to explore ideas in depth."

By tools Gallagher refers to multi-faceted space-planner/lead designer Ericka Williams, and the project team at Sun Design Remodeling.

"It was an inspiring collaboration," Gallagher allows. "The owners had attended Sun Design seminars earlier, toured several remodeled homes and talked to our past clients...so they knew what to expect. Turns out, this was just the beginning of their discovering more about their personal tastes."

To start at the top: that summer the owners had celebrated 23 years of residency in their two story, four bedroom production house, and were taking stock of what they wanted from the years ahead.

At just over 1,000 square feet, the home's primary level living area seemed adequate relative to living space requirements. The problem was that the original space plan and interior finishes were quite dated. Bathrooms designed in the 1990s featured oversized bathtubs, small showers and a vanity illuminated by Hollywood strip lighting. The children's playroom in the lower level had been set up for grade school activities. Walls formed to define rooms also blocked the light, and obstructed visual continuum.

The food prep island in the kitchen, meanwhile, nearly abutted a breakfast table which was, in turn, sequestered from the family room by a half wall. When entertaining was underway, the kitchen was beyond the conversational reach of both social gathering zones. Moreover, with the microwave above the cooktop and refrigerator to the right, the cook's work triangle was often in the center of traffic bottlenecks.

"There was a wall with an HVAC duct separating the kitchen from the dining room/living room," Williams recalls. "The original Formica countertops didn't function well as a working surface for hot pots and pans."



Glass-facing cabinets, a 25-bottle wine refrigerator and a granite-topped serving station now unify the kitchen and the family room.

PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY



To generate more light and living space in a circa 1990s house, Sun Design Remodeling removed a wall between the kitchen and great room. A granite food prep and dining counter replaces a stand-alone breakfast table. The wine refrigerator is convenient to the re-designed family room.

Elsewhere, main level carpet and tiling were becoming threadbare. While the dining room and kitchen had been originally conceived for formal entertaining, the reality was a 24 ft x 16 "great room"—mostly reserved for holidays.

"Interior lines were not well articulated," Williams says. "The first level rooms were large enough, but the space seemed looming, almost empty."

What was needed was an "open" plan with interactive, clearly defined activity zones.

Seizing the day, Williams proposed a custom buffet as a way to differentiate the dining zone and from the living room. The piece would function as a service station and storage unit from both sides.

To better articulate the main level interior, Williams re-routed the HVAC duct work and converted the wall into a pair of arched openings crowned. Taupe-hued walls combined with a soft white trim confer a stately elegance on uncluttered sightlines.

Glass-facing cabinets, a 25-bottle wine refrigerator and a granite-topped serving station now unify the kitchen and the family room. The fireplace surround is MSI Gray Oak tile in a straight lay pattern. The new flooring is 5-inch plank gray-stained solid maple.

Upstairs, the new spa bath features a large walk-in shower with a bench seat, "cubbies" designed for personal-use and hand-held shower sprays. Among the lighting enhancements: overhead LED recessed lighting and decorative sconces.

The lower level now boasts a state-of-art entertainment center and is equipped with refrigerator and wet bar.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. For more information, visit www.SunDesignInc.com/Events or call 703-425-5588.

JOHN BYRD (BYRDMATX@GMAIL.COM) HAS BEEN WRITING ABOUT HOME IMPROVEMENT FOR 30 YEARS.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Artist Marty McFly with his 'bedazzlement.'

'Love' Finds a Home At Workhouse

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

After an eleven-stop tour around Fairfax County in 2019, the "LOVE" sign now has a permanent home at the Workhouse Arts Center's courtyard in Lorton. Appropriately unveiled on Valentine's Day, the sign will remain a fixture at the Workhouse and is expected to attract many visitors to the art campus. One of 200 "LOVE" signs located throughout the Commonwealth, Lorton's sign was given a special "bedazzlement" by Woodbridge artist Marty McFly. McFly is a cartoonist and pop art creator. His embellishments, a collage of facial expressions, add bright color to the work, representing the emotion.

"Love" signs were an outgrowth of the very successful tourism campaign slogan: "Virginia is For Lovers." It was heralded as one of the "most well-recognized and often imitated campaigns..." by "Advertising Age." Celebrating its 50 year anniversary, the slogan first appeared in the March 1969 issue of "Modern Bride" magazine.

"Forbes" named it "one of the top 10 tourism marketing campaigns of all times." The slogan is included on the advertising walk of fame in New York City.

Barry Biggar, "Visit Fairfax" President and CEO, speaking at the ceremony, said the signs have generated hundreds of thousands of photographs and brought much attention to Virginia. Biggar added that the marketing campaign is credited with helping create Fairfax County's \$3 Billion tourism industry. The "Love" signs highlight some of the best areas of the county's tourism assets and help support 31,000 local jobs.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Dan Storck, on hand for the unveiling, welcomed the piece as a means to attract more people to the Workhouse Art Center, "this heart of artistry." He added, "public art is an essential part of how we communicate with each other." The Workhouse Arts Center is a nonprofit collaboration of visual and performing arts space and exhibitions, with art education. Located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton; open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.



'Love' signs were an outgrowth of the successful tourism campaign slogan: 'Virginia is For Lovers.'



Sheehy Volkswagen of Springfield Donates \$5,000 to ECHO

Sheehy Volkswagen of Springfield recently donated \$5,000 to the Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) as part of Sheehy Auto Stores' annual Giving Program for 2019, whereby \$135,000 was given to charities throughout communities in Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; Hagerstown, Maryland and Richmond, Virginia. Pictured, from left, are: Michael Reidy, Vice President of ECHO; Maureen Doherty, Client Services Director at Sheehy VW; Fran Eck, Holiday Food Coordinator at ECHO; Russ Zakeri, Managing Partner of Sheehy VW and Sheehy Subaru of Springfield; Bob Vitter, President of ECHO; Tony Pomilla, Chair of Business Relations; and John Mercer, General Sales Manager of Sheehy VW. ECHO is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) charity, providing food and financial help to people with short-term emergencies, as well as clothing and household items to people with low incomes.



2020 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career Building Workshops

Woodson High School Saturday, March 7th 10 am to 12 pm	Mount Vernon High School Saturday, March 21st 10 am to 12 pm
South County High School Saturday, March 7th 2 pm to 4 pm	West Springfield High School Saturday, March 28th 10 am to 12 pm
Chantilly High School Saturday, March 14th 2 pm to 4 pm	Full-time employment Part-time employment Seasonal positions Internships Volunteer Positions and More

Businesses, Nonprofits & Students
Register Free here:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs>

Sponsored by
 Supervisor Pat Herrity, Connection Newspapers, and Fairfax County Public Schools
 For questions, call Supervisor Herrity's office at 703-451-8873

Come home to

HARMONY





Become part of our family at Harmony and enjoy time well spent with your loved ones in your new home.



Harmony

at Spring Hill

The Harmony Lifestyle is waiting for you! Call 571.348.4970 or visit www.HarmonyAtSpringHill.com

ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE | 8350 Mountain Larkspur Dr | Lorton, VA 22079 | Nestled in the Gated Community of Spring Hill

Why a Regional Wage?

Effort to raise minimum wage hits snag on Senate floor, leading to regional approach.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

It's shortly after 7 p.m. on a Tuesday night, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is working the Senate chamber to save the minimum wage increase. This particular Tuesday isn't just any day of the week. It's the final deadline for Senate bills to cross over to the House, so the pressure is building as the clock winds down. Senators are tired and cranky, and they will be working past midnight.

Surovell is skipping from senator to senator, engaged in one-on-one conversations as he tries to cobble together a majority. The effort to raise the minimum wage is perilously close to failing, a development that could have been a disaster for the new Democratic majority who got elected, in part, to make this happen. A handful of senators are holding out for a regional approach to the minimum wage, one that would recognize the income disparity between Northern Virginia and the rest of the commonwealth. The leader of that bloc is Sen. David Marsden (D-37), who tried and failed to create a regional approach to the minimum wage during a meeting of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust," Marsden explained during the committee meeting. "I'm very concerned this will have a huge impact on the state budget, and it'll have a huge impact on Virginia's economy."

Now Marsden has an opportunity to revive that approach. His idea may have failed in committee. But at the last minute before the final deadline, it's making a comeback on the Senate floor. Without the handful of senators holding out for a regional approach, Democrats won't have the votes to make the increase happen. The bill to increase the minimum wage was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, an indication of how important it is to the agenda of the new majority. The amendment creating a regional approach was introduced by Surovell, who acknowledges it was crafted to cobble together a majority.

"There's some members of my caucus that didn't feel comfortable going to \$15 across the commonwealth," says Surovell. "We had to structure a bill that would get 21 votes, and that's what we did."

A REGIONAL APPROACH to raising the minimum wage is prohibited under current law, which establishes on minimum wage across Virginia. But the bill that emerged out of the Senate last week pegs it to the median household income, which is about \$120,000 in Northern Virginia but only \$62,000 in Hampton Roads.

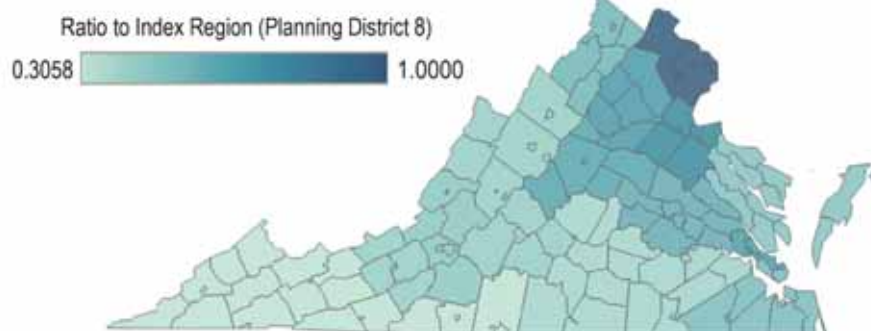
The Commonwealth Institute calls the regional approach adopted by the Virginia Senate "one of the most complicated and inequitable minimum wage laws in the country," accelerating inequality rather than alleviating it.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), right, introduced an amendment on the Senate floor to take a regional approach to the minimum wage. That's an idea originally proposed by Sen. David Marsden (D-37), whose vote Surovell was trying to get by introducing the amendment.

Falling Farther Behind: Lower Median Household Income Will Mean Smaller Raises

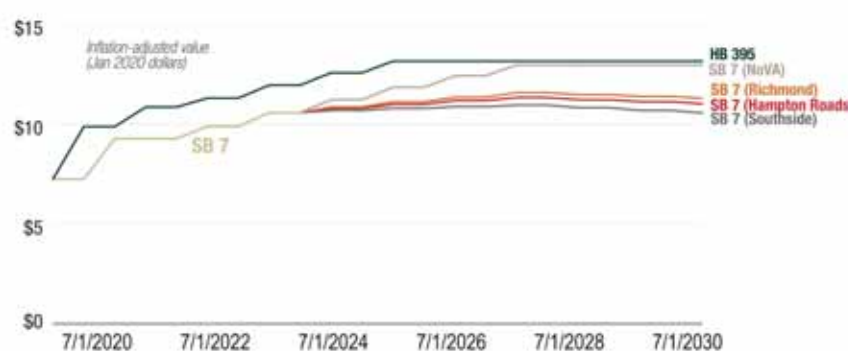


Source: TCI analysis of American Community Survey 2018 median household income by region and proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020. SB7 allows the Commissioner to establish the regions; TCI selected regions for this map based on data availability (PUMAs) and Virginia's economic landscape.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

SB 7 as Amended Leaves Most of Virginia Behind



Note: Northern Virginia includes Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William. Richmond includes Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, and Richmond City. Hampton Roads includes Chesapeake, Franklin City, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Southside includes Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Emporia, Greensville, Hopewell, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex.

Source: TCI analysis of proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020 assuming 2.4% inflation per year and current income ratios compared to Northern Virginia.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

"For every dollar increase in the minimum wage in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads would receive only 51 cents," says Laura

Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute. "As a result, low-wage workers in Hampton Roads would not see

\$15 until 2034 or even later."

Under Senate Bill 7, Virginia's minimum wage would increase to \$11.50 across Virginia by 2023. Then Virginia's Commissioner of Labor and Industry would create a series of "regions," and set different minimum wage rates based on median household income. The region with the highest minimum wage would receive \$1 annual increases to the minimum wage until it gets to \$15 an hour. Other regions would receive less. Richmond and Hampton Roads would take the biggest hit, being stuck with a lower wage for years to come.

"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust."

— Sen. David Marsden (D-37)

"The regional approach is needlessly complex and unpredictable for businesses," said David Broder, president of SEIU Virginia 512. "This bill that aims to help alleviate economic inequality is actually going to bake it in even more."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS took a more straightforward approach, increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour across Virginia by 2025. Senators are now considering the House version, although it'll face the same group of Democratic senators who are concerned about the business community. Meanwhile, over in the House, momentum is heading in the other direction. Instead of making the bill more friendly to big business, House Democrats took action to shed a vestige of slavery by removing the exemption for farm workers.

"It's common knowledge many of Virginia's exemptions to the minimum wage law were rooted in race," Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31), who introduced a bill to remove the exemption "It's past time we give these workers the same protection as everyone else."

The Senate also voted to end some discriminatory exclusions, including ones for domestic workers and piece workers. But critics of the regional approach fear that black workers could once again be left behind because many of them live in communities with low median household incomes. That means Senate Democrats are feeling a pull in two separate directions, one in favor of low-income minorities and the other big business and their allies.

"Working people have been leading the fight to raise the minimum wage in Virginia for years now. They have taken this fight to the streets, to the ballot box and now to the legislature," said Broder. "They helped elect Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, and it's time for legislators to deliver for working families."



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Crews continue construction in February for a March opening. The new location will have many more windows to filter in natural lighting.

Saratoga Starbucks Will Soon Relocate in the Same Shopping Center

Separate building will have more room for coffee and conversation.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

For years, coffee drinkers in the Saratoga area of Springfield have been flocking to the Starbucks in the Saratoga Shopping Center on the way to work, or throughout the day for their cup of joe. It's become such an attraction in that shopping center that Starbucks is moving soon to a separate building across the parking lot in a space that was once occupied by Capital One.

The new space will have everything that makes Starbucks the "third place," in some people's lives, and more including a drive-through window for the morning crowd that needs to hit I-95 to get to the office.

According to Eric Davidson, Senior Manager, Communications at Regency Centers, "Starbucks has in fact signed a new lease to relocate from their current in-line space out to the pad building (previously occupied by Capital One)," he said. "We've also signed a lease with Domino's to backfill the existing Starbucks location."

Regency is a property developer with headquarters in Jacksonville,

Fla. that manages the Saratoga Shopping Center, and Davidson is a former resident of Northern Virginia.

The current store is typical of the older Starbucks locations, with one door in the front, a few tables, a small counter and a space for those waiting for drinks. It's a typical blueprint that's outgrown its use. One employee of the Starbucks seemed to think the moving date was March 26 but she wasn't sure the date still stands.

The South County Federation looked at the application for the Starbucks to move a few years ago and officially put their stamp of approval on the plans. They noted the transportation impacts, and "a traffic study was performed and shows minor impact on the ingress & egress from the shopping center," they stated in their resolution. "Therefore, be it resolved that the South County Federation supports this application to relocate Starbucks with a drive through to the vacant Capital One building in the Saratoga Shopping Center."

Currently work is moving along on the "pad," as they call it in shopping center lingo, and the new location is shaping up. The Capital One had a drive thru window, and the construction plans took down the existing one, and are apparently rebuilding another in its place. The demand for coffee shops is not going away. According to Starbucks, they've opened 539 new stores in the last quarter, and now have a total of 31,795 stores worldwide.



Westminster at Lake Ridge offers unique possibilities, with more than 62 acres nestled in a gorgeous, wooded setting. Our classic apartments and spacious cottages are perfect for an active and engaging lifestyle. Opening this summer, the Center for Healthy Living will offer even more amenities to this already exceptional community.

SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR TODAY!



WESTMINSTER AT LAKE RIDGE
www.wlrva.org // 703-291-0191



Westminster at Lake Ridge is a not-for-profit, CARF-accredited, SAGECare-certified, life plan community.

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BAND WASHINGTON, D.C.



Colonel Don Schofield, Commander and Conductor

heritage
series
jazz
2020
airmen
of note

FREE CONCERT

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus

jazz guitarist

Peter Bernstein

THURSDAY, MAR. 5 AT 7:30 P.M.



for FREE tickets, please visit:
usafband.eventbrite.com

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

The Beauty of Wood. Now thru March 2. 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. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at info@artistsundertaking.com. Visit the website www.artistsundertaking.com

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>

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.

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Monday Exercise Classes. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information.

NOW THRU MAY 27

Wednesday Exercise Classes. 9-10 a.m. At The Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information. (20 weeks @\$2.50/class = \$50)

NOW THRU 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 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.



18th-Century Game Night at Gunston Hall

Gunston Hall will host 18th-Century Game Night on Friday, Feb. 21 in Lorton.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

18th-Century Game Night. 6-9 p.m. At George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Guests are invited to delve into the past and discover the origin story of games like Life, Craps, and Poker. Finger foods and seasonal adult beverages are part of this 21+ evening event. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.gunstonhall.org or at the door. Cost: \$35; \$25 for members. Visit the website www.gunstonhall.org.



National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine

The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine will appear at the GMU Center for the Arts on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating their Jubilee 100th concert season, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (NSOU) presents a concert of Eastern European delights, including a showpiece for cello by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius' first symphony which displays his unique Nordic style as well as his admiration for Tchaikovsky, and Ukrainian composer Borys Lyatoshynsky's symphonic ballade composed as a tribute to the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz on the centenary of his death. Considered one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe, NSOU has achieved international recognition with its extensive touring schedule and more than 100 acclaimed recordings, including Lyatoshynsky's Symphonies No. 2 and No. 3 named The Best Recording of the Year by the Australian Broadcasting Company. Under the direction of Volodymyr Sirenko, the orchestra is joined by world-renowned cellist Natalia Khoma as the featured soloist. Tickets are \$60, \$51, \$36. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

NOW THRU APRIL 3

Friday Exercise Classes. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information. (8 weeks, \$20).

FEB. 19 TO MARCH 29

The Color Green. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of an early spring and St. Patrick's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of nature's most ubiquitous colors, green. In its newest exhibit

simply titled, Green, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its various artists' interpretations of the color. Torpedo Factory artists are chosen through a rigorous jurying process and enjoy a high degree of acclaim, both locally and nationally. Savvy shoppers know Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic as a place not only to enjoy fine art but also as a great place to purchase art at affordable prices.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Henna Workshop. 6-7 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the history and art of henna design with local

henna artist Anita Kundal. Attendees will learn how to use Henna tubes and create their own design. Materials provided by Pohick Regional Library. Free. Visit the website:

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6225706>

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Indoor Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The youth group has been collecting items for weeks

and will have a huge indoor yard sale to benefit their youth activities at church. Please come support them and find some treasure. Visit the website: www.standrews.net

Off the Wall. 2-5 p.m. At the Art and Design Building, GMU Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. Every year GMU opens its Art and Design Building to alumni, parents, prospective students, and the public for a showcase of the visual arts at Mason. Tour 15 open studios and hands-on exhibits with student and faculty artists, enjoy the music, plus create your own works of art - it's a great party. Cost is \$30/regular; \$20/Mason alumni, faculty and staff; \$10/ages 14-18. Ticket and sponsorship proceeds support arts scholarships and guest artist residencies. Sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500. Contact Emily Rusch at 703-993-3872 or erusch2@gmu.edu. Visit the website: offthewall.gmu.edu.

Peace, Love & Art. 6:30-10:30 p.m. At Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Fundraiser for Workhouse; tickets are \$90/door. Psychedelic cocktails and delicious nibbles; dancing Woodstock-style and casino games; hippie and groovy outfits encouraged. Artwork for raffle.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Hands On Day Activities. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Hands On Days, suitable for both adults and children, feature a variety of educational activities involving history and train modeling. Mini-workshops or activities focusing on artifact restoration and preservation might also be featured. Cost of crafts or materials for Hands On Day activities are included in the price of admission. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and military both active and retired, \$4. Visit the website www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

BHS General Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Sara Collini, a Ph.D. candidate in history at GMU, shares her research on enslaved women's role as midwives in Fairfax County and the Chesapeake from 1750 to 1820. Free. Visit the website: www.burkehistoricalsociety.org

Postcards: Musical Journey. 4-5:30 p.m. At Lanier Middle School, Auditorium, 3801 Jermentown Road, Fairfax. If you're tired of being cooped up inside or looking up at gray skies, then come join us for an afternoon of music that is sure to lift your spirits! Included on the program are 'Kilimanjaro - an African Portrait,' by Robert Washburn, filled with a captivating rhythmic vitality and strong musical textures and 'Baba Yetu,' the Grammy Award winning piece written for the video game Civilization IV. Cost is \$10/\$5. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxband.org/event/postcards-main-street-community-band-winter-concert/>

Dance Benefit Concert. 6 p.m. At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The Fairfax Academy Dancers are producing a dance benefit concert for the second year. This year's benefactor is The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Dances from the Academy Classes as well as groups from the community will be presented. Some participating organizations are Glen Echo Improvisation Movement Theatre, enVISION from Georgetown Visitation, Nrityanjali, Manassas Youth Ballet, Sundays on TAP, and more. Suggested donation \$20.

TUESDAY/FEB. 25

Wind Symphony & Symphonic Band Concert. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. The George Mason University Wind Symphony, led by composer-conductor Mark Camphouse is a select ensemble comprised of outstanding wind, brass, and percussion players in the School of Music

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR



Hot Peas 'n Butter

Hot Peas 'n Butter will perform at GMU Center for the Arts on March 1, 2020.

MARCH 1, 2020

Hot Peas 'n Butter. 1 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Praised by the Los Angeles Times for their "hot and mellow multicultural groove," Hot Peas 'n/ Butter will have you and your whole family on their feet dancing with their infectious fun global music celebration. This Parent Choice Award-winning, family music ensemble blends together traditional Latin music, Afro-Caribbean rhythms, jazz, bluegrass, country, and rock to create a "rainbow of color and sound." (NY 1 TV). Singing in English, Spanish, French, Korean and Hebrew, Hot Peas 'n Butter aims to show multi-cultural interconnectedness. Their repertoire of songs like Number 1" and their signature Latin beat tracks "Somos Familia," "Amistad," "Que Lluvia," and "Round the World" enjoy radio play nationwide. Cost is \$15 for adults; \$10 for children. Visit the website: www.cfa.gmu.edu

FROM PAGE 10

and the University. The ensemble's mission is to study and perform the best literature available for wind band, while emphasizing soloistic and orchestral performance practice. The Wind Symphony ranks among the finest collegiate wind bands in the Commonwealth and performs the best of new band literature. Programs include world premieres of student and faculty compositions, student and faculty soloists, and more traditional repertoire. Tickets are \$12 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Mason Jazz Festival. Begins 10 a.m. At Harris Theatre, GMU, 4471 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax. The Mason Jazz Festival is an invitational event open to middle school, high school, collegiate and community Jazz ensembles. Sponsored by Mason Jazz Studies, National Jazz Workshop and the Jazz Education Network, participating groups will perform a 20-30 minute set, followed by a clinic by Mason Jazz faculty and special guests. The participation fee is \$200 per ensemble and spots are limited. Closing festival performance will be the United States Air Force, Airmen of Note at 7 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public – no tickets or registration required. This festival will include three "Outstanding Soloist" (cash prizes) and four "Best Section" awards as well as scholarships to the National Jazz Workshop summer camp at Mason.

NPR's From the Top. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. Attend a live recording of this popular NPR radio show, featuring the acclaimed piano duo Anderson and Roe as guest hosts. From the Top celebrates the stories, talents, and character of America's best pre-collegiate classically-trained musicians. It began as an experiment in 2000 and quickly grew to become the most popular weekly one-hour classical music program on public radio. It delights both seasoned classical listeners and new classical music fans alike. With a mission to empower young musicians and inspire music lovers, From the Top showcases the extraordinary gifts and stories of the young musicians. Guest hosts Greg Anderson (a From the Top alum himself) and Elizabeth Joy Roe will emcee the program and perform alongside the young artists. Following the performances, the featured young artists discuss balancing their musical passions and dedication to their craft around school, hobbies and full family schedules. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

FEB. 29 AND MARCH 1

Monty's Trains Special LEGO Model Train Show. 12-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Local modeling enthusiast, Monty Smith, will share his LEGO (R) model train layouts in a special two day event. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and military, both retired and active, \$4. Visit the website www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Catholic Schools Job Fair. 9-11 a.m. At Paul VI High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Office of Catholic Schools will hold a job fair seeking to fill up to 150 teaching positions. Positions are open in preschools, elementary, middle and high schools. The Diocese has 37 parish (K-8) schools, four diocesan high schools, four independent Catholic schools and five free-standing (not connected with a parish school) pre-schools, serving more than 17,000 students. For more information, contact Mallory Sigmon at 703-841-2519 or visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/careers/>.

Teen Job Fair. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Woodson High School 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. Sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herrity, Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Supervisor James Walkinshaw, Woodson High School, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

Stargazing and S'Mores. 8:30-10 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Burke. Set your sights on the stars and warm up inside and out with s'mores by a roaring campfire at Burke Lake Park. Participants age 3 to adult can take a stroll along the lakeshore while learning about the constellations, their stories and other night-sky features. An astronomical naturalist will identify stars for you and have some telescopes available for you to use. Then, put the finishing touches on your evening out with a campfire and s'mores. S'mores ingredients will be provided; hot dogs are welcome. Cost is \$12 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

Tell us what you think
submit your Letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com



DR. GENE SWEETNAM
DR. GRACE CHANG DR. KAREN JINYOUNG KIM
O P T O M E T R I S T S



- Family & Pediatric Vision Care
- Comprehensive Eye Exams • Treatment of Eye Diseases
- 21 years Naval Service, 6 years Active Duty
- Laser Vision Consultants • Over a thousand frames in stock
- We carry all major brands of contact lenses • In-house lab

Most Insurances Accepted:

Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Care First, Medicare, Tricare In-network Doctor, Cigna, DavisVision, Aetna HMO/PPO/POS, PHCS, VSP® Network Doctor, EyeMed Vision Care, United Healthcare, VA Medicaid

WE WELCOME YOUR DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

5206A Rolling Rd.
Burke Professional Center
Burke, VA 22015

703-425-2000

www.drsweetnam.com • www.sightforvision.com

Where Your Dental Needs Come First!

Se habla Español

Family Dentistry

NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$99

(Regularly \$311)

Includes Exam, Cleaning (in absence of gum disease) and X-rays

703-323-9394

yourdentalfirst.com



Raja Gupta, DDS
Dental First Associates, LLC

We've Moved!

6116 Rolling Rd., Suite 312
Rolling Mill Professional Park
(next to West Springfield H.S.)
Springfield, VA 22152

The line goes around the corner.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



New Grocery Store Fills Vacant Lot in Springfield

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The line went around the corner at the grand opening of Lidl food store on Commerce Street in Springfield, as many tried to be among the first 100 customers that would have a local claim to fame and a \$100 gift card.

Springfield resident Edmond Melkonian was one of the first past the cut ribbon and hoopla outside. “The best store ever,” he said, “the service, the prices, the quality, unbelievable.”

The Springfield location is the 94th store in the chain and the closest to their headquarters in Arlington. The spot in Springfield was previously occupied by a car dealer but sat vacant for a while. The wheels were turning in then-Supervisor Jeff McKay’s office to get this store in to fill the void. McKay, who is now the Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, couldn’t make the early morning ceremony so his new staffer Hannah Menchhoff was there in his place. “We’re really excited to have another accessible, affordable food store,” she said. There is a relatively new Aldi food store right across the street as well.

Inside, the new vibe was present as well. The bakery and fresh food section is a big hit, and they only have six rows so the shopper isn’t overwhelmed, said manager Julia Christophe.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

The bakery and fresh food section were a big hit on opening day of Lidl food store on Commerce Street in Springfield Wednesday.

Fairfax County representative Hannah Menchhoff cuts the ribbon with Lidl’s Dylan Lee



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/ THE CONNECTION

Lidl Springfield Store Manager Julia Christophe



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/ THE CONNECTION

Lidl’s Bright New Face in Springfield

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The opening of the Lidl in Springfield on Wednesday brings not only a new food store for the community, but also new jobs for many. That includes Julia Christophe, 24, who will manage the store and its 60 employee staff.

Asked how it felt to be the new store manager, she said “nervous, but [it] puts drive with pressure like this.” She referred to the excitement of the grand opening which drew a crowd large enough to fill the parking lot to capacity and form a line along the building.

The Springfield store also is the nearest to Lidl’s U.S. corporate headquarters in Arlington, so Christophe can expect a good deal of corporate attention and executive shoppers.

Lidl can point to advancing women to several store manager positions; about 50 percent who hold the job are women, according to company spokesperson, Chandler Ebeier. Store philosophy gives all employees an opportunity to learn, train, and move up. Employees move to all positions in the store, from up-front, to receiving and stocking, and to the bakery.

Prior to taking the Springfield position, Christophe worked at the Arlington headquarters in sales organization procedures. While the German based company develops its procedures in the home office, Christophe helped translate those workings to the American market place.

Originally from Germany, where she spent her childhood, Christophe and her family now live in Fredericksburg.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/ THE CONNECTION

Store manager, Julia Christophe, right, welcomes first customer, Mike Maloney, as Tina Choi holds the ceremonial ribbon.

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA



**WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S
PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE**

**BUY 3
TIRES
AND
GET
THE
4TH FOR**



\$1

**See Service
Advisor for details.**

GOT TIRES?

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL
ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

**CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT DIAGNOSIS**

**NO
CHARGE**

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

**WE WILL RETRIEVE
VEHICLE CODES
& GIVE YOU
AN ESTIMATE
OF REPAIR COSTS.**



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

Jack Taylor's
**ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA**

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!
Have Your Vehicle Checked
for Open Campaigns/Recalls
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710**

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

ToyotaCare Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES
BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

**FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP**
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE
10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE
15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE
Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER
\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 2/29/20.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
**DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.**

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER, TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 2/29/20.

Jack Taylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #201911022

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

Like

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE

www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers

Employment

Forget Daily Commuting

Print and digital media sales consultant for area's most popular and trusted local news source


Manage your own hours from home
Enjoy flexible schedule plus no daily commute
Help local businesses grow
Unique opportunity to be a voice in your community
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

Announcements

Announcements

Anywhere it can rain, it can flood.



KNOW YOUR RISK. PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. GET FLOOD INSURANCE.

DAM SAFETY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
www.dcr.virginia.gov/floodawareness

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Announcements

Announcements

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS

Over 500 vacation homes from S. Nags Head to Corolla's 4x4!

Brindley Beach
VACATIONS & SALES

877-642-3224
www.brindleybeach.com

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.ccca.net.

Announcements

Donate A Boat or Car Today!

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

800-700-BOAT
(2628)

www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



Announcements

Announcements

Lifetime METAL ROOFING
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS, INC

40 YEAR WARRANTY ON THE FINISH - ENERGY EFFICIENT
SUPERIOR DURABILITY - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
FACTORY DIRECT - WE FINANCE - CALL NOW!

WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM **1-800-893-1242**

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.

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.

SUNDAY/MAY 17

Psychic Fair. 9-5 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Psychic Fair for both those who are serious and for those who are just curious. Event can be a life-changing experience or just a fun time. Many of the best psychics, mediums, healers, and readers of all types, along with related arts and crafts vendors from Virginia and the surrounding areas. Note: 75% of tables offer some type of readings, 25% of tables offer related arts, crafts, books, oils, crystals, sage, herbs, information, jewelry, etc. There will be 44 vendors. All under one roof, all in one room, indoor event, free parking. Cost: \$5 in advance \$10 at the door. Visit the website: <https://va-psychic-fair-2020.eventbrite.com>

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. **Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller	LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Winter Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ELECTRICAL ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Licensed/Bonded/Insured Ceiling Fans Office 703-335-0654 Phone/CATV Mobile 703-499-0522 Computer Network Cabling lektrkman28@gmail.com Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...				
GUTTER GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamil@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!				
A&S Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia				
LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500 J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed				
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Email Marketing ▶ Social Media ▶ Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING				
Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe				

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 erie 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.



Office: 703-503-1881
ShelleyD@LNF.com
Cyndee@LNF.com
**Your Home.
Our Priority!**



Fairfax Station

Gorgeous 5 bedroom estate home framed by 5+ acres in beautiful Fountainhead community. Features gorgeous gourmet kitchen, beautiful main floor master suite, pool, 5 garage bays, walk-out lower level with bedroom suite and much more!



11708 Amkin Dr, Clifton Listed at \$889,900

Fabulous 4 bedroom/3.5 Bath colonial perfectly sited on private 5 acres in terrific Plantation Hills Community. Gorgeous updated kitchen and baths, hardwoods, new carpet, walkout lower level, spacious deck on which to entertain or relax and much more!



Catie, Steve & Associates
Direct: 703-278-9313
Cell: 703-362-2591
Life Members, NVAR Top Producers
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



Fairfax \$649,900

Just steps to Woodglen Lake, this lovely colonial sits on a peaceful cul-de-sac and is awaiting you! Freshly painted, delight in its gleaming hardwood floors, granite counter tops, 4 big bedrooms upstairs, main level family room, grand sized living room, & banquet sized dining room. There's even a finished lower level with a recreation room, game room and tons of storage. Best of all, it comes with a 2-car garage and large deck overlooking a fenced backyard! Hurry, don't miss it!



MARSHA WOLBER
Lifetime Member NVAR, Top Producers
Top 5% of Agents Nationally
www.marshawolber.com
Cell: 703-618-4397



Manassas COMING SOON \$699,500

Signal Hill Farm is a private 7 acre horse farm in nearby Manassas. Featuring a renovated cape cod owner's home with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a main level master suite. Extensive outdoor living options include front porch, multilevel decks, patios, and in ground salt water pool. Center aisle barn with hayloft, water, electric, 4 fenced pastures and so much more. Call for more info.



JUDY SEMLER
703-503-1885
judys@lnf.com



Falls Church \$1,235,000

Luxury and location all in one place. Exquisite end townhome offering distinctive architectural features. An easy walk to the West Falls Church Metro. Call Judy for more information. Visit: 7720magpielane.com



Springfield \$310,000

Beautiful townhome featuring 3 finished levels, 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors on upper level, updated 1.5 bathrooms, updated kitchen, walkout recreation room. Terrific location. Call Judy for more information.



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895
Life Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club
Life Member, NVAR Top Producers



Lovely home sold in one day in beautiful Middelridge subdivision.



David Levent
703-338-1388
davidshomes@lnf.com
Experienced Agent - Amazing Results
6 Year Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club



Burke Centre \$2350/mo.

Many updates including new roof, carpet, flooring, and paint. 3 Bedrooms 3 Full Baths 1 Half Bath. Finished Lower Level Has Media Room. Amazing Location. Close to schools, shops, and VRE transportation. Available Now! Call For Details.



DAVID & VIRGINIA
Lifetime NVAR Top Producers
703-967-8700
www.BillupsTeam.com



CROSSPOINTE

These fine homes went quickly for over list price! Are you looking to buy or sell a home this spring? Give us a call today at 703-967-8700. Be sure to ask about our "specials" coming soon in March! Check our website in the next few weeks for new listings in Crosspointe, Alexandria, Annandale and Fairfax Station! www.billupsteam.com



BARRINGTON



JOYCE WADLE

CERTIFIED MILITARY RELOCATION PROFESSIONAL
HONORED TO HELP FAMILIES BUY AND SELL IN NORTHERN VA EVERYDAY
Long and Foster Founders Club
Multi Million Dollar Top Producer
www.pcswithjoyce.realtor
703-403-3058



THINKING OF SELLING, NOW IS THE TIME

Military move PCS season is here, thinking of selling or buying?

Call me today and let's talk about your next move.

703-403-3058



Just Sold!
Multiple Offers
\$34K Over List Price



DIANE SUNDT
703-615-4626
Military Relocation Specialist
Over 20 Years Experience

Are you thinking about selling?

Have the kids left the nest?
Do you need to downsize?
If you want RESULTS, let's talk. Even if you are a few years away from your move, I can advise you on renovation options to get you the most value.



New Year - New Career!
Have you been considering a career in Real Estate?

Just a few of the benefits of a career in Real Estate include:

- Unlimited Earning Potential
- Flexible Schedule
- Helping others achieve their Real Estate Goals
- Building Wealth Through Real Estate

To learn more about a career in Real Estate, contact Managing Broker Paul DiCicco at 703-503-1899 or by email at pauld@lnf.com



ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfoster.com

I have new listings coming on the market in Fairfax, Arlington, and Nokesville.

Please call me for updates.



"Committed to Earning the Loyalty of Our Clients by Providing Unparalleled Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community."

