

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTREVIEW

MARCH 18-24, 2020

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

State Co-champions

NEWS, PAGE 3

John Hunter #5 fires a shot from beyond the arch in the semifinals game against Western Branch, Centreville won 62-55 on March 10. Hunter scored 19 points including 4 three point baskets and 5-6 from the charity stripe.

‘Ensuring that our Community Is Taken Care of’

NEWS, PAGE 4

‘Teamwork, Safety and Aggressive Criminal Patrol’

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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OPINION

Session Wrap-Up 2020

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

The General Assembly session that adjourned last week was a busy one; 3,001 bills and resolutions were introduced, and 1,351 of those passed. But the historic nature of the session was not in the number of bills introduced: it was in the shift in philosophy governing the state that went from conservative to progressive. The Associated Press termed it "one of the most consequential sessions in Virginia's history."

Some of the more noteworthy bills that passed are summarized below. I voted for them unless otherwise noted.

The General Assembly ratified the **Equal Right Amendment** after about 40 years of refusing to do so. Virginia is the 38th state to ratify the ERA; federal courts will decide if the amendment was ratified within the deadline set for it.

Numerous laws that had been put in place over the last several decades to make it difficult for a woman to have **access to an abortion** were repealed including a mandatory 24-hour waiting period and ultrasound testing. Dozens of **Jim Crow era laws** that limited the rights of Black people were removed from the code as they had been declared unconstitutional by federal courts years ago. Local governments were given authority to determine the fate of **Confederate monuments** in their jurisdictions.

The **Virginia Values Act** prohibits discrimination in housing and employment for all persons. My bill to bring **protections of the hate crime law** to all persons regardless of



COMMENTARY

sexual orientation or gender identity passed as did other bills to **prohibit LGBTQ discrimination**. **Conversion therapy** on minors is banned under a new law.

Major bills passed to **make voting easier**. No-excuse absentee voting passed, and election day will now be a holiday. Repeal

of the photo ID requirement for voting passed.

The environment received extra attention. The **Clean Energy Act** sets Virginia on course to be carbon neutral by 2045 as well setting timelines on the move to wind and solar power and the use of more renewables. My bill to **clean up the Chesapeake Bay** with more nutrient management of agricultural run-off passed as did my bill to manage the menhaden fishery as an important part of the ecology of the Bay.

Seven of the eight bills to **end gun violence** proposed by Governor Northam passed including my bill to establish universal background checks for all firearm purchases. Other bills to limit handgun purchases to one a month passed as did a bill to limit gun possession for persons who are the subject of a restrictive order for violent behavior.

The biggest step in decades towards **transportation** improvements passed. The additional gas tax raised by the bill will provide monies necessary to improve the roads in the state as well as provide monies for mass transit and rail. A bill to ban holding a **cell phone** while driving passed. No longer will driver's licenses be suspended for unpaid court fees and fines under a bill that passed. Undocumented immigrants will be able to get a driver's license.

the individuals going through self-harm, but it is just as important that we take a step back and try to understand the outside forces that have caused this disproportionate pattern in teenagers. I believe that there is something more significant going on than individual events but rather a group of people situated in a society that could be an outside force causing this problem. It is up to us to address this.

Lianna Williams
Vienna

Inspirational Fight for Women's Rights

To the Editor:

This year's Women's History Month is particularly special because Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights

Amendment (ERA). The ERA is designed to guarantee equal rights for all American citizens, regardless of gender. While it's disappointing to know that it took so long to ratify women's equality, we have seen women, such as, Malala Yousafzai, fight for justice in all parts of the world. As a college student and young Muslim woman, seeing someone like her who is not afraid to fight for women's rights while maintaining her Muslim identity is inspirational.

It is disappointing that Pakistan and other Muslim countries deny women the access to education, which is what Malala Yousafzai bravely fought for. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) emphasized the importance of education for both genders. He said, "It is the duty of every Muslim man and every Muslim woman to acquire knowledge."

This Women's History Month, as we celebrate Virginia's historic

For workers, the **minimum wage** will be going up from its current \$7.25 to \$9.50 this year and to \$12 in three years. My bill to raise the minimum wage at a greater level was incorporated into the bill that passed. A bill to allow **collective bargaining** between local governments and their employees passed.

Balance billing for hospital and medical costs are eliminated by another bill that passed. A Virginia **health insurance exchange** will be established to replace the federal one.

I voted against a bill that passed that allows five cities to have a referendum on **casino gambling**. I voted for a bill that will ban thousands of slot-machine-like games of skills in restaurants and stores.

Possession of a small amount of **marijuana** has been decriminalized. As part of legislation to end the **school-to-prison pipeline**, a bill passed to prohibit students from being found guilty of disorderly conduct for actions in school.

A **constitutional amendment** to have a 16-member panel of legislators and citizens redraw legislative and congressional district lines passed for a second time and will be on the ballot for voter approval in November.

A \$135 billion **biennial budget** provides more money for pre-school education, raises for teachers and state employees, more school counselors, more developmental disability waiver slots, free community college for certain eligible students, among other improvements.

For more information on bills summarized here and on other legislation passed, go to <https://lis.virginia.gov/>. Most bills have not been signed by the Governor but are expected to be.

achievement, let us also not forget about Muslim women role models such as Malala Yousafzai or political leaders, such as, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Let's come together to celebrate the achievements of women from all nationalities and religions.

Sabiha Basit
Centreville

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@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://www.facebook.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@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

NEWS

'Teamwork, Safety and Aggressive Criminal Patrol'

Pfeiffer is Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In recognition of his outstanding achievements during the past year, Police Officer First Class (PFC) Kory Pfeiffer has been named the Sully District Station's Officer of the Year for 2019. He was honored during the Feb. 12 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

"It's to recognize his amazing work enforcing the law and protecting you all," Assistant Station Commander Lt. Josh Laitinen told the residents attending the meeting. "Kory's been with the Fairfax County Police Department four years and joined our bike team a year ago because of his obvious dedication and motivation, plus the support he gives to his fellow officers and his desire to keep the community safe."

Nominating Pfeiffer for this award was Lt. Jonathan Bobel. In his write-up, he said that, when the officer first joined the station's Neighborhood Patrol Unit (bike team), he was its youngest member. But, wrote Bobel, "His skills as a police officer, tactics, knowledge of State Code and applicable case law certainly did not parallel his tenure."

He said Pfeiffer earned his position on that unit by showing "a superior work ethic based on aggressive criminal patrol, supporting his squad mates and a positive attitude. His dedication to familiarization with the high-crime areas and the repeat offenders in the district furthered his ability to disrupt criminal activity that was about to occur or was in progress."

DURING HIS TIME on the Neighborhood Patrol Unit (NPU), wrote Bobel, "He quickly became the informal leader of the team. Pfeiffer set a standard for new members of the team and led by example. The model he set was based on teamwork, safety and aggressive criminal patrol. This benchmark has brought the expectations for incoming members of the team to aspire to operate at PFC Pfeiffer's level of proficiency."

Bobel said that Pfeiffer's work ethic and actions are not only recognized by his teammates, but also by the other officers in the Sully



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Lt. Josh Laitinen (on right) presents the 2019 Officer of the Year award to PFC Kory Pfeiffer.

District Station who work indirectly with him throughout his shift. Indeed, he wrote that Pfeiffer leads the NPU in supporting the entire station.

"If high-risk calls for service are dispatched, Pfeiffer, along with NPU, responds to support and assist the patrol officers during the event," said Bobel. "He is quite proficient at formulating tactical plans with the resources available and then safely enacting them. Pfeiffer also works closely with the Criminal Investigation Section Detectives to focus and maximize resources to advance more complex, ongoing cases in the district."

An example of his proactive police work was displayed when NPU was assigned to the Anti-Theft Team during the December 2019 Christmas-shopping season at Fair Oaks Mall. While there, Pfeiffer saw three females enter the mall with empty shopping bags and walk into the Abercrombie and Fitch store.

"While maintaining surveillance in a plainclothes capacity, he was able to observe the subjects removing sensors and filling the empty shopping bags with large amounts of clothing," wrote Bobel. "He simultaneously was communicating with his teammates and coordinating with them to give the team the largest, tactical advantage during further surveillance and the eventual arrest. Pfeiffer staged both the plainclothes officers and uniformed officers to effectively arrest the three subjects without incident, once they attempted to leave the mall."

But that's not all. Via interviews, he identified the vehicle they'd driven there. And once it was found in the parking lot, police discovered a large amount of stolen merchandise from multiple stores in plain view.

Then, through coordination with his teammates, Pfeiffer was able to learn the identities of two more female subjects who were still in the mall. These two were working with the three already arrested, but they had arrived in a separate vehicle. And all five of them were part of the same shoplifting ring, based out of Baltimore, Md.

"Once those subjects were taken into custody, their vehicle was also located in the parking lot," wrote Bobel. "Even more stolen merchandise was found inside of it. Pfeiffer's observations, coordination and investigation led to 27 felony warrants, approximately \$14,000 of stolen merchandise recovered and one vehicle seized."

BOBEL said the officer used this same skill set of identifying suspicious activity and in-progress crime and applied it during summer 2019 when he observed two people just sitting idly in a Mercedes in a parking lot. But once they saw him, one of them immediately got out of the front passenger seat and walked away.

"Pfeiffer engaged the driver [in conversation], and it became apparent to him that a narcotics transaction had been taking place when he first arrived," wrote Bobel. "He was able to detain the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NADINE KAISER

CES Holds Father-Daughter Masquerade Dance

Centreville Elementary held its 14th annual Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance on Friday, Feb. 28. Girls danced the night away at a masquerade event with their fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles and even older brothers. The school thanks the parents for all their support in making it such a success. It also thanks its community businesses partners for their generous contributions: Ciro's New York Pizza, Centreville Tire and Auto, Twin Lakes Golf Course, Chantilly Wegmans, Chantilly Clay Cafe, Ciao Osteria, Bonefish Grill, Eavesdrop Brewery and the Chantilly Chick-fil-A. Pictured are first-graders Darcy and Elianna in their masks, plus fourth-grader Lindsey and her costumed dad.



driver, perform a search of the vehicle, seize the vehicle and seize a distribution amount of cocaine and marijuana." The driver was subsequently charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, as well as possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

"These cases are just a snapshot of the work that Pfeiffer has been involved in throughout 2019," wrote Bobel. "He leads by example, not only for the Neighborhood Patrol Unit, but also for the Sully District Police Station."

Furthermore, Bobel noted that Pfeiffer led the station last year with a total of 133 arrests – 37 felonies and 96 misdemeanors. He also led the NPU to a total of 339

arrests during that same time frame.

"Many of these cases involved violent offenders and weapons," wrote Bobel. "During his time on the Neighborhood Patrol Unit, Pfeiffer has gained a reputation for making quick decisions [combined] with good tactics from his training and experience. This has enabled these arrests – although higher-risk, at times – to be affected in a safe and effective manner."

Therefore, said Bobel, "In recognition of his hard work and devotion to duty during the 2019 year, PFC Kory Pfeiffer has been named Officer of the Year for the Sully District Station."



WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo (second from left) with county, community and business volunteers during the Feb. 29 Stuff the Bus event.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Collecting the food inside the bus are Maria Escobar and Fernando Torrico with MV Transportation.

‘Ensuring that our Community Is Taken Care of’

Residents stuff the bus for WFCM food drive.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In wealthy Fairfax County, so many people struggle to put food on their table. And when they also have to pay the bills for rent, water and electricity, sometimes their children have little to eat.

That’s where the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) food pantry comes in, providing a critical necessity of life to local families in need. But it can’t do it without the help and generosity of the community which works hard to keep its shelves stocked.

That’s why WFCM’s annual Stuff the Bus event, Feb. 29, was so important. Over a 4-1/2-hour span, that Saturday, at the Chantilly Walmart near the Dulles Expo Center, some 1,432 pounds of food were donated and \$293 in cash.

“Walmart is always happy to support the community,” said front-end coach Storm Robinson. “One of the things I was pleased about, coming into this store, is that it’s always been very engaged with the community.”

Local students, employees of Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, plus members of a nearby bank, volunteered their time to make the event a success. Also participating were the county’s Office of Public Private Partnerships, Fastran and MV Transportation.

As customers entered the store, volunteers greeted them with fliers telling about the food drive and listing the nonperishable items particularly needed. These included canned fruit and vegetables, oatmeal, cereal, sugar, flour, oil, juice boxes, jelly, dry pasta and sauce, and pancake mix and syrup, as well as Baby Wipes, diapers, sham-

poo, conditioner and toothpaste.

One of those volunteers was Mark Knight, a vice president with United Bank in Chantilly. “We’re here lending a hand,” he said. “Fourteen people total came from the bank, and we’ve been distributing fliers and stuffing the bus. The bank, and I, personally, are always looking for noble causes and community outreach – and this fundraiser helps people in need in the community.”

Helping, as well, were Vicki Greene and Lakeshia Lewis, both with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Their organization provided the connection

between the buses, WFCM and Walmart, to turn the idea for this event into a reality.

“It’s a way of ensuring that our community is taken care of,” explained Greene. “And it’s very fulfilling to do so.” She also noted that Neighborhood and Community Services refers clients to WFCM and even provides caseworkers for them. “We’re a point of first contact,” she added. “We try to be the bridge between the need, the community and the people who can support that need.”

“There’s a close relationship [between the two entities], all year ‘round,” said WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo. Working at the cash-donation table inside Walmart’s front door, along with Lewis,

Greene and the other volunteers, that day, Taddeo was delighted with how well things were going.

“By 2 p.m., we had already collected 955 pounds of food – which were packed into 30 boxes – and a lot of monetary donations,” she said. “And a Chantilly Boy Scout Troop was helping us at the pantry, stocking our shelves with the donated food after it was delivered.”

“We’re always very grateful to Fairfax County and Walmart for their partnership, as well as all the volunteers,” continued Taddeo. “We serve over 400 families each month in the food pantry, so this food and this money make a big difference in being able to keep them fed.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FAIRFAX COUNTY ACTIVATES CORONAVIRUS INFO CENTER

Fairfax County activated a Joint Information Center in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 13.

❖ **Fairfax County Health Department COVID-19 webpage** – www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus

❖ **Emergency Information Blog** (you can subscribe by email or follow by RSS) – www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog

❖ **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center** – The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

❖ Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about COVID-19.

❖ **Twitter** – @fairfaxcounty and @fairfaxhealth

❖ **Facebook** – www.facebook.com/fairfaxcounty and www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyhealth

INPUT SOUGHT ON PLAN FOR HERNDON-RESTON SILVERLINE BUS SERVICE

Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a third round of community meetings and engagement opportunities to encourage public input on the preferred plan to provide enhanced Fairfax Connector bus service in the Reston and Herndon areas,

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

including connections to the future Metrorail Silver Line Phase 2 stations. The preferred service plan was developed based on public input received through community engagement in 2019, stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. After this final round of community input meetings, FCDOT will finalize the preferred plan based on public feedback and technical analysis and take to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Attend an Interactive Community Meeting:

❖ **Hutchison Elementary School** - 13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector Route 937 and Route 950.

❖ **South Lakes High** - 11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7-9 pm. Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector routes RIBS 2 and Route 551.

❖ **Sully District Governmental Center** - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly
Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 7-9 p.m.
Meeting location is accessible via Fairfax Connector routes 640 and 642.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Human Trafficking Meeting. 7 p.m. At Chantilly High School Auditorium, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Presented by Just Ask Prevention, which is a U.S. registered 501(c)(3)

not-for-profit educational organization based in McLean, that is focused on ending human trafficking in the United States and around the world through education, prevention, and intervention.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Kindergarten Registration. 4-5 p.m. Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2020-21 school year. If your child will reach his or her fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2020, he or she is eligible to attend kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public School that serves your address. Please follow the following steps to register your child:

1. Find your neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>
2. Complete a packet of registration forms—you may obtain these in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Feel free to call Union Mill’s registrar at 703 322 8500 if you need help navigating the website.
3. Gather your supporting documents—proof of residence in the Union Mill boundary, a certified copy of your child’s birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

SPORTS



Mekhai Washington #20 powers his way to the basket for Centreville



Avery Ford #23 scored 17 points for the Wildcats

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

Centreville and South County Named Co-champions

Following the declaration of the state of emergency, Virginia High School League (VHSL) opted to enshrine both teams reaching the final. The Centreville Wildcats knocked out Western Branch 62-55 on March 10 in the semifinal of the Virginia Class 6 Boys Basketball Championship, winning their last 12 games of the season. That game would be the last of the season as concerns of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) have shut down professional, collegiate and now high school sports throughout the

United States.

Centreville (21-6) was led by John Hunter who scored 19 points including 4 three point baskets and 5-6 from the charity stripe. Avery Ford scored 17 for the game and tallied 20 rebounds. Mekhai Washington and Lance Douglas each scored 10 points. Washington would also add 12 rebounds for the Wildcats. Centreville and South County HS shared the Class 6 Boys Championship, while the Girls Class 6, was shared by Edison and Madison.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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NEWS

Fairfax County Updates on COVID-19

Releases & Alerts, as of March 16, 2020.

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman, Board of Supervisors Fairfax County, has issued the following update to the Fairfax County Community on Monday, March 16, 2020:

"Today I had the opportunity to stop by the Health Department to see the excellent work of our response teams answering the questions of residents. In the last week, 17,000 people signed up for the County's text notifications and separately, the call center received 265 calls this morning.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Jeff McKay, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Local Declaration of Emergency

What are you doing? (At 10 a.m. Tuesday) the Board is holding an emergency session to consider making a local Declaration of Emergency.

What does this do? This does two things primarily: 1. This declaration streamlines and expedites Fairfax County Government's access to emergency disaster funding and 2. It allows the County to use its authority to procure goods to address the emergency.

How can I watch? The online live stream, on TV on Cox channel 1016 or Verizon/Comcast channel 16, listen by dialing 703-324-7700, or view following the meeting on demand.

Information on Fairfax County Services

The Health Department has a number of resources on COVID-19:

- Visit the County site on COVID-19, Health Department Website, see their FAQs, and tips for social distancing.
- Sign up for text message alerts: text FFXCOVID to 888777
- Call the Health Department from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. 703-267-3511
- Email: ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov. This account will be staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you have further questions or are in need of services, below are some good references:

Neighborhood and Community Services provides access and referrals to both government and community-based resources for assistance with, but not limited to: food, shelter, employment, financial assistance, and healthcare.

- Call: 703-222-0880, TTY 711; Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Community-based resources for food assistance and donations can again be found here.

For small businesses in need of relief, we have created a web page that we will continue to update with guidance.

Mass Gatherings and Community Events:

- Fairfax County now recommends cancelling public events with 50 or more people, per the CDC.
- All public events in Virginia with 100 or more people have been cancelled by Governor Northam.
- For events of any size (public or private), organizers and participants each have a responsibility to reduce the chance of disease transmission.
- Persons considering attending any event, regardless of the number of people attending should consider the risks and benefits in deciding to attend. In particular, those who are at high-risk of severe disease if they become infected – persons who are older than 60 years old, have chronic illness, have a compromised immune system, are pregnant - should know the status of COVID-19 in the community and not attend the event if local infection is widespread.

Here are County guidelines for those planning an event.

Fairfax County Government

All County agencies have been directed to identify core functions that we must continue to carry out. We are shifting resources to those essential functions, as needed.

We strongly encourage residents to conduct County business online if possible.

Taxes

- The deadline for seniors and people with disabilities to apply for tax relief has been postponed to June 1.

The following programs have been extended:

- Real Estate Tax Relief for the elderly (65+)
- Tax Relief for People with disabilities
- Personal Property or "Car Tax" Relief

Fairfax County Parks, Libraries, and Community Facilities

- Fairfax County parks (indoor), libraries, and community facilities are closed for two weeks.
- This includes: recreation, nature, community, resource and teen centers, golf courses, historic sites, athletic fields, and picnic shelters.

Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Care Centers

- All Fairfax County Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Care Centers are closed until further notice.
- Fairfax County is providing meal delivery services to registered participants who wish to obtain them.

Utilities

We have reached out to area utility companies to assure that they are working to protect those at risk of utility disconnection. We have received confirmations from:

- Verizon, Comcast, and Cox, have pledged to keep customers connected for the next 60 days and not terminate services to any residential customer or small business that are unable to pay their bills. Read more.
- Dominion Energy suspended disconnections. Read more.
- Washington Gas will be waiving late fees and suspending disconnections. Read more.

Fairfax Connector Bus

- There have been no changes to Fairfax Connector services, however cleaning protocols have been reviewed and updated.
- Increased vehicle cleaning cycles are occurring with a special focus on bus interiors and critical touchpoints. These cleanings incorporate disinfection procedures indicated to be effective against COVID-19.

Metro

Metro is reducing service:

METRO RAIL service:

- Monday-Friday: Trains will operate every 12 minutes on each line throughout the day. The rail system will maintain normal hours, opening at 5 a.m.
- Saturday: Trains will operate every 12 minutes on each line, with service from 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. (normal Saturday service).
- Sunday: Trains will operate every 15 minutes on each line, with service from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. (normal Sunday service).

METROBUS service:

- On weekdays, bus service will operate on a Saturday supplemental schedule.
- Weekend bus schedules are unchanged.
- WMATA also asks that customers do not use Metro to go to healthcare appointments if you are showing signs of illness.

Other changes:

- Fairfax County has cancelled the secure document shredding event for Saturday, March 21, at the Gerry Hyland Government Center. It will be rescheduled at a later date.
- The Supreme Court of Virginia has declared a judicial emergency. All non-essential state court proceedings are suspended effective March 16 to April 6, 2020.

Finally, we received questions about how to detect coronavirus in its early stages. According to the CDC the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure: • Cough • Fever • Shortness of breath

As we have more information to share, my office and Fairfax County Government will continue to update residents. Thank you for your support and patience as we work to manage this challenging, complex, and rapidly evolving situation. Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

- orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration.
- Call the registrar at 703-322-8500 or email lrnilla@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring your completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school.
 - Bring your child to attend Kindergarten Orientation on Monday, March 30, from 4 to 5 p.m. Your rising kindergarten student will have the opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom while parents attend an information session in the school cafeteria.

INDOOR PICKLEBALL FACILITY BREAKS GROUND

Locally-owned-and-operated Pickleballerz, broke ground on Feb. 3 as demolition efforts began on the interior at 14424 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Pickleballerz is completely reconstructing the interior of the almost 20,000 square-foot space into the Washington DC region's first-ever dedicated six-court, indoor pickleball facility for players of all abilities to hone their skills, socialize, and be a part of an inclusive community within the fastest-growing sport in America. The groundbreaking begins what will be a multi-month design and build process for Pickleballerz, which will feature premium USA Pickleball Association-preferred indoor pickleball courts that enhance the playing experience. These specially made courts, the same as used at the world-renowned Australian Open tennis tournament, are designed to ensure superior traction and game play while being less stressful on players' knees and other joints. Visit www.pickleballerzusa.com or contact info@pickleballerzusa.com

NOVEC YOUTH ART CONTEST

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) invites students in kindergarten through fifth grade to enter their art in Cooperative Living magazine's 18th annual Youth Art Contest. Entries are due May 4. Art should reflect the "Trip to the Zoo" theme.

Artwork should be configured vertically (portrait-style) on an 8.5-by-11-inch sheet of white paper. Art can be in color or black and white. It can be in any medium, including crayon, pen, acrylics, charcoal and pencil. No tracing or "party pictures" done by a group are permitted. The child's full name, age, grade, school, mailing address, and parent or guardian's daytime phone number and email address should be printed clearly on the back of each entry.

Artwork can be emailed using instructions at www.co-opliving.com/contests/youth-art. Hard copy entries should be mailed unfolded to Youth Art Contest, c/o Cooperative Living magazine, P.O. Box 2340, Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340. Original entries will not be returned.

BE AN EARTH DAY VENDOR

Reach thousands of Fairfax County residents in a single day with a booth at the Fairfax County 2020 Earth Day Festival. Applications are being accepted now from vendors, exhibitors and food vendors who want to join the celebration hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

This event, formerly known as Springfest, will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Festivities will take place at Sully Historic Site, located at 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, Virginia.

For event details, visit the Earth Day Fairfax 2020 website. To learn more about exhibitor opportunities, visit the Vendor/Exhibitor Information and Application portal.

Once your application is received and reviewed, you will be notified of your application status. If accepted for the event, your fee payment will be due by April 1, 2020 to secure a spot. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Teri Bowers at Terilyn.Bowers@fairfaxcounty.gov.

DONATIONS

The **Student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

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Feeling Pale By Comparison



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In a peculiar way, my cancer treatment and all has sort of gotten lost in the coronavirus talk. With so many changes to our regular lifestyle occurring on a daily basis, it feels as if nothing else matters. Granted, one's health is the most important consideration, but now the talk is about everybody's health. Nevertheless, how do I throw caution to the wind and interact with my environment when doing so might endanger the very stability I've worked over 11 years to maintain? I mean, I have to live my life, but will there be a cost to do so? I realize that the good of the many outweigh the good of the few but Spock was speaking from outer space. How do I, while in and out of treatment down here on Earth not worry about myself?

I realize life will go on for almost all of us, but will there be consequences for those unable to secure proper care? Will decisions be made about allocating resources because demand has far outstripped supply? How does life for cancer patients undergoing treatment fit into this new paradigm where so many people might need some kind of medical care? Will there even be enough health care professionals to administer the kind of life-sustaining treatment many of us seriously-diagnosed patients have come to expect and need?

Unfortunately, only time will tell, and there may very well be little of it in the interim, during which we can anticipate and plan accordingly. So many decisions will likely be made by the powers that be that might not exactly consider my set of cancer circumstances. In a way, I might be collateral damage. There simply might not be enough room and medicine and staff and all to accommodate my needs. It's nothing personal. It's just business, or rather the lack thereof. With so much of the world's population affected while going about their usual and customary routine, who, what, where and how will there be any prioritization? Moreover, what about people who are already sick and challenged by a weakened immune system (like yours truly), will the competition from newly diagnosed coronavirus patients overwhelm our health care system?

I can't assume that life will go on as it always has. That would seem to be incredibly naive. I need to proactively make the necessary arrangements and/or contingency plans. I can't presume that being a cancer patient will always get me through the door. I'd like to think I take priority. But it might not be about priority, it might be about availability and a dwindling supply not able to keep up with demand.

Still, going down this rabbit hole of fear, anxiety and worry doesn't help either. As I have since the date of original diagnosis, back in late February, 2009, I need to make the best of a bad/challenging situation. I need to roll with the punches and be prepared for any eventuality and take the good with the bad and vice versa. Normal left the building a long time ago for me. The problem is that building to which I metaphorically refer is the very building where I get my ongoing medical treatment. And though I don't anticipate being kept away from that building, the reality is that it's out of my control.

As with anticipating the results of CT scans and lab results, all in good time, or bad. I need to keep the same positive attitude as I always have because though I might be at greater risk than many of you regular readers, we are all at risk, apparently. As such, if there is indeed anything to be gained by so many people being so similarly affected, the reality is that there are strength in those numbers and even though it may feel that right now the whole world is upside down, things eventually will right themselves. They always do. I just hope I'm still smiling when the dust settles.

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

CALENDAR



Super Pet Expo

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

MARCH 20-22

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

Editor's Note: Be aware that many events could be cancelled as precaution to the spread of COVID-19. Please check before heading to events. Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Climate Change Forum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Sully District Democratic Committee sponsoring a Hot Topic Forum on Climate Change - A Message of Urgency and Hope featuring Molly Bakal, Earth Rise Indivisible/Climate Reality Project, and Karen T. Campblin, Green New Deal Virginia. For details, email: LizWalker2@iCloud.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Daffodil Shabbat. 7:30 p.m. At Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. At this special Shabbat service, recognize people both in and outside of the congregation who are “survivors” of cancer. The term “survivor” encompasses person, family member, or friend whose life has been touched by cancer. The daffodil is one of the first flowers of spring and a worldwide symbol of hope. Named accordingly, Daffodil Days— is an annual American Cancer Society program—which has helped spread cancer awareness and raise money towards a cure for more than 40 years. Come on your own or bring friends and caregivers — anyone whose presence gives you support. Contact rabbiblock@hotmail.com.

MAY 1-3

CVHS Spring Play. At Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. In Ella Hickson's adapted version of J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan, when Peter Pan and Tinkerbell stumble into the Darling's home one evening, Wendy takes the lead on

their journey to Neverland, facing pirates and the Lost Boys. See Wendy ultimately discover the key to her parents' floundering marriage and what it means to grow up in Centreville High School's production of Wendy and Peter Pan this spring. Cost is \$15. Visit the website: <https://www.theatrecentreville.com/wpa/>

SUNDAY/MAY 17

Red Shoe 5K. 9-11 a.m. At the Bull Run Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The family-friendly event will include a 5K, a Kid's Fun Run (ages 8 and under), and additional activities. Visit the website: <https://rmhcdc.org/news-events/red-shoe-5k/>

Wine, Whiskers and Wags

Fundraiser. 1-5 p.m. At The Farm Brewery & Winery at Broad Run, 16015 John Marshall Hwy., Broad Run. Wine, Whiskers and Wags (and Beer) annual fundraising event to feature online silent auction, live music, and drinks and fare. Sponsored by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, nonprofit 501(c)(3). Tickets are required and may be purchased in advance for \$50 at www.fccas.org. Wine tickets may also be purchased at the event for \$60. Admission includes live music, outdoor games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a ticket for a glass of wine, beer or wine slushy, a keepsake beer glass and Friends goodie bag, participation in the online silent auction and access to exhibitors. The event takes place on the Brewery & Winery's pavilion grounds with access to the farm surroundings. Guests are invited to bring well-behaved, friendly dogs and chairs and blankets for a picnic experience. Event sponsors are still needed. Interested businesses and individuals should contact Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at 571-212-9858.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 27

2020 OAR Jazz and Wine

Fundraiser. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee

Highway, Centreville. Guests will enjoy complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, and music from the Greg Byrd jazz band. The winery provides a beautiful setting for OAR to share its successes and present upcoming opportunities. Featuring Keynote Speaker Chris Wilson, whose book, The Master Plan, will be available free to the first 150 guests in attendance. Chris will be available for book signing after sharing his story about Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Bull Run Elem. Anniversary. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Bull Run Elementary, 15301 Lee Highway, Centreville. Bull Run Elementary is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. Featuring photo booth and balloon art, moon bounce, musical showcase, opening of time capsule, Bach 2 Rock DJ, food trucks, face painting and spin art.

ONGOING

Diabetes Sisters PODS Meetup.

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

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing

Fairfax County Public School Buildings Closed Until Further Notice

COVID-19 continues to be a fast-moving event. This weekend, we have been continuing to evaluate our options going forward with the health and well-being of our students, employees, and community remaining the top priority. In consideration of these developments, FCPS is announcing the following actions:

- ❖ All FCPS school buildings are closed until further notice. Food distribution at FCPS sites will continue as scheduled. More details about the food program are below.
- ❖ With the school buildings closed, the laptop distribution scheduled for Monday, March 16, is postponed.
- ❖ All FCPS administrative offices are closed until further notice.
- ❖ Only essential personnel as defined by FCPS program managers and supervisors will be asked to report to work until further notice. All other employees will work remotely. It is expected that all FCPS personnel reporting to work will practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Grab-and-Go Breakfast and Lunch at 18 Locations

Beginning, March 16, FCPS is expanding the grab-and-go food distribution sites to a total of 18 locations. The food distribution is set up outside the schools. Breakfast will be served from 8-10:30 a.m. and lunch from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

FCPS is providing grab and go meals at no cost for students at 18 sites. We are coordinating with community partners to ensure the locations and timing of food centers and pantries are being communicated with FCPS families.

All FCPS students (regardless of age) are eligible for free grab and go breakfast and lunch. The food must be received directly by a student or paying adult. Adults may pay \$2 for their meals.

All eighteen sites are available to pick up breakfast or lunch. The food distribution is set up outside the schools. Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and lunch from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the locations listed below:

Annandale Terrace ES, 7604 Herald St.,
Bailey's Primary ES, 6111 Knollwood Dr., Falls Church
Braddock ES, 7825 Heritage Dr., Annandale
Brookfield ES, 4200 Lees Corner Rd, Chantilly
Burke School, 9645 Burke Lake Rd., Burke
Centre Ridge ES, 14400 New Braddock Rd., Centreville
Crestwood ES, 6010 Hanover Ave., Springfield
Cunningham Park ES, 1001 Park St., Vienna
Dogwood ES, 12300 Glade Dr., Reston
Garfield ES, 7101 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield
Graham Road Community Center, 3036 Graham Rd., Falls Church
Fort Belvoir Upper ES, 5980 Meeres Rd., Fort Belvoir
Hutchison ES, 13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon
Hybla Valley ES, 3415 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
London Towne ES, 6100 Stone Rd., Centreville
Mount Vernon Woods ES, 4015 Fielding St., Alexandria
Providence ES, 3616 Jermentown Rd., Fairfax
Weyanoke ES, 6520 Braddock Rd., Alexandria

Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

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

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

Carolina Shag Dance.

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

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

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

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