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One Artist Two Hashtags And VIRGINIA STRONG

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Anne Delaney, Art Reston Executive Director, points out the detail in local artist Ben Morse's chalk art of the Virginia State Bird and Flower, as Morse continues to work and Robert Goudie Executive Director Reston Town Center Association looks on.

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NEWS

One Artist Two Hashtags and VIRGINIA STRONG

Public Art Reston connects community.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

It seemed right. In the first hours after dawn on the day Northern Virginia began to reopen, a masked artist knelt and chalked an image of the Virginia state bird and flower on the brick plaza in front of Mercury Fountain in Reston. Below, in vibrant blue block letters, he wrote VIRGINIA STRONG.

When the community could not physically be together for months given the governor's stay-at-home order, the community was Virginia Strong. Public Art Reston created #ATHOMECHALKART. The nonprofit organization virtually invigorated and connected artists and admirers of all ages through its Stay-at-Home Chalk Art event scheduled for each week in May. Coronavirus may have kept the community home but on Public Art Reston's Facebook page and on driveways and sidewalks, chalk art connected people whether on the nonprofit's Facebook or at a social distance.

Robert Goudie is the Executive Director of Reston Town Center Association, a partner organization to Public Art Reston. He said the work in front of the fountain came to be and it tied to Reston Public Art and more. "We thought... wouldn't it be even more powerful if RTCA actually created a piece of chalk art and become a part of the event as a way to help further promote it. So I immediately reached out to our friend, Ben Morse, a local artist who is a big supporter of the local arts... Ben was enthusiastic about doing something, so we were on our way."

Morse said that he chose the cardinal and dogwood because they would tie in the Virginia Strong theme.

According to Goudie, Morse being there on Friday coincided with the cautiously optimistic Phase One reopening of Town Center and elsewhere in Northern Virginia and promoted the final days of the Stay-at-Home Chalk Art event. He said they saw this as "a lovely triple play": sponsor a local artist in Ben Morse; promote the amazing community-unifying event that is Stay-at-Home Chalk Art by becoming a part of it; and celebrate through the event how "we are all in this together, Virginia Strong, as we inch our way into Phase One of recovery and beyond."

Anne Delaney, Executive Director of Public Art Reston, said while the chalk event culminated with Ben Morse's drawing, they were extending the event an extra week to celebrate South Lakes High School Class of 2020. According to Delaney, a parade takes place on Wednesday evening, June 3. "Public Art Reston is encouraging Restonians to participate in that community spirit event by doing a chalk art piece congratulating all 2020 graduates, whether from SLHS,

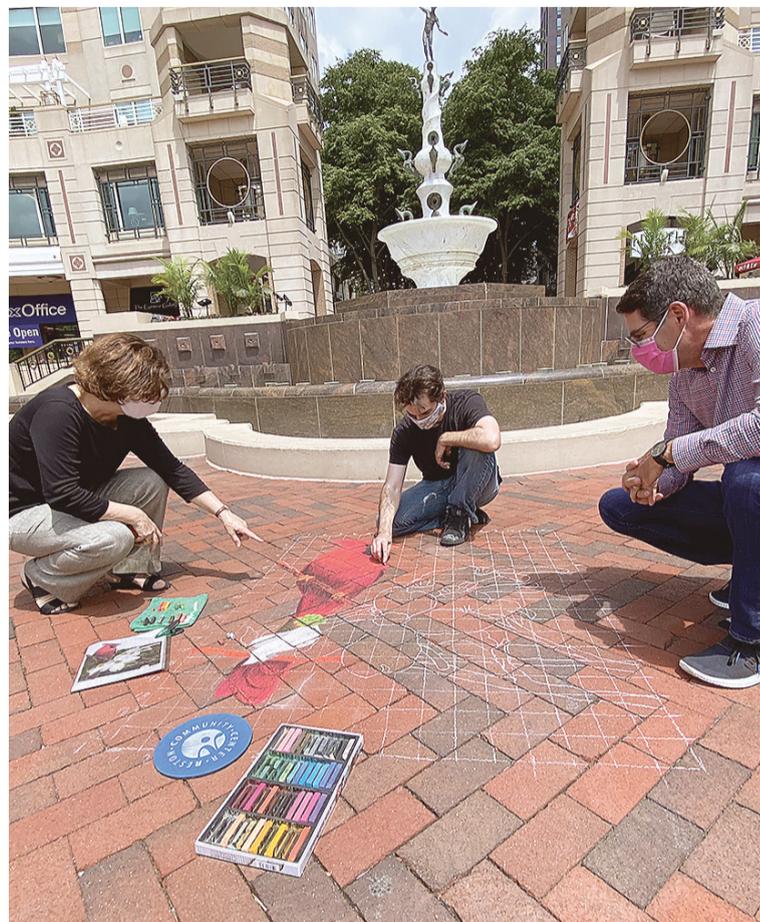


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Anne Delaney, Executive Director Art Reston Executive Director points out the detail in local artist Ben Morse's chalk art of the Virginia State Bird and Flower, as Morse continues to work and Robert Goudie Executive Director Reston Town Center Association looks on.



PHOTO BY BEN MORSE

Chalk art by Ben Morse of Reston at Reston Town Center.

Herndon High School, (or) college," she said.

"Stay-at-Home Chalk Art" is a partnership with Reston Town Center, Reston Community Center, Reston Association, Reston Historic Trust & Museum and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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NEWS

‘Kids Outside Will Get Full Force of the Sound’

Jumbo jets would fly just 950 feet above Westfields homes.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Like global warming, people may choose to ignore airport noise contours – but their effects will still happen, nonetheless. That’s what the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) would like the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to realize. But so far, the Board has turned a blind eye to information that could potentially cause some new homes not to be built – and it’s even refused to officially acknowledge the information even exists.

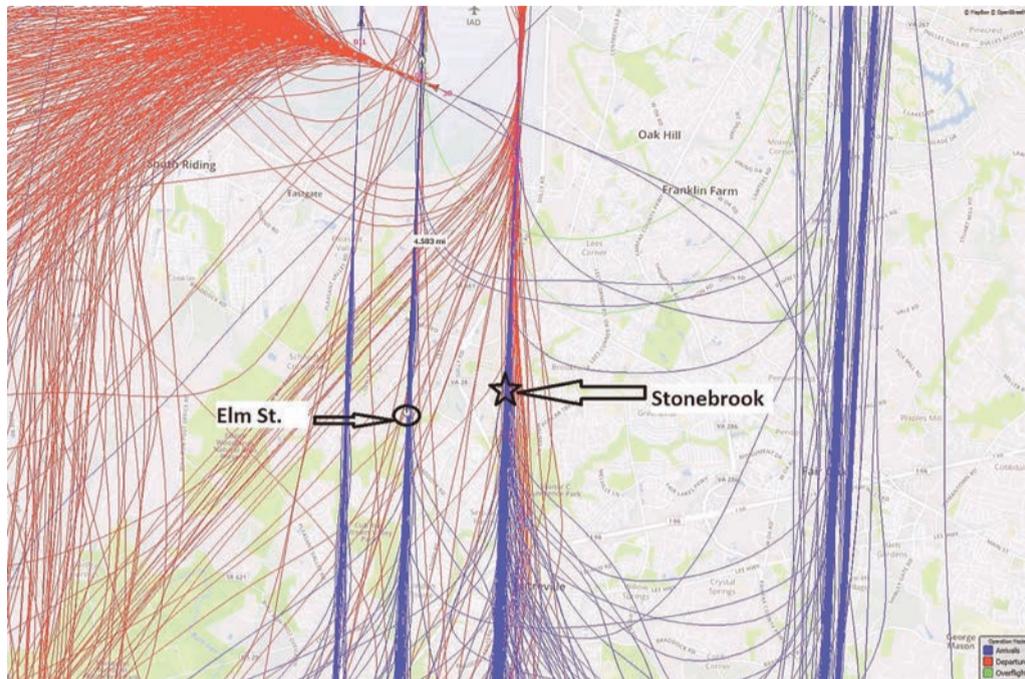
Just recently – against the wishes of MWAA and two, local, land-use groups – it approved construction of Elm Street Communities, 157 homes directly under a Dulles International Airport flight path. Aircraft arrivals there are generally 30-60 seconds apart, and the flightpath is only 1,300 feet above this site.

The Board decided based on the airport’s noise-contour map from 1993, even though it’s known since last November that this map was updated in 2019 – and that airport use has intensified in the past 27 years. Furthermore, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) projects that, between now and 2045, aircraft operations at Dulles will grow by 27 percent – an increase of 240 flights/day.

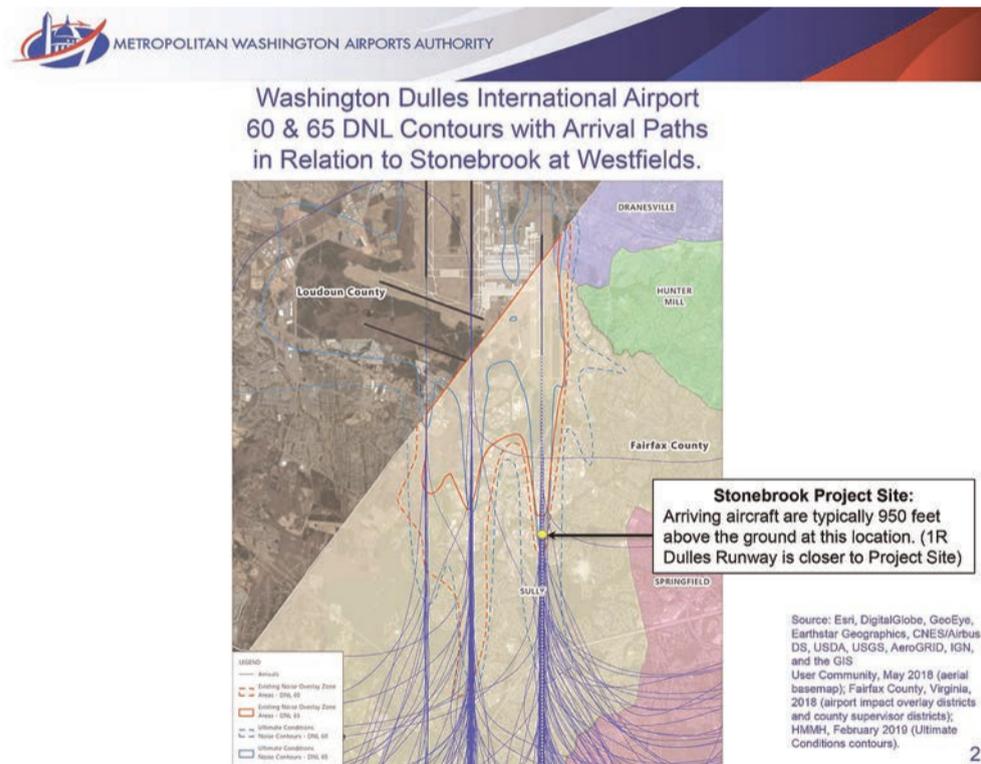
The county’s own Comprehensive Plan states that “As new appropriate noise contours become available, this information will be brought before the Board of Supervisors so that appropriate modifications can be made, if necessary, to the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the most recent and most appropriate delineation of the Dulles Airport Noise Impact Area to which land-use compatibility policies will be applied.”

Yet the Supervisors have continued deciding land-use cases in the airport-noise area without including the updated noise-contour information in its Comprehensive Plan. And soon, they’ll consider another residential development, Stonebrook, that’ll be affected even more by the noise because jets there will fly just 950 feet above the homes.

REPRESENTING ITS DEVELOPER, Stanley Martin, on May 18, Andrew Painter addressed a joint, online meeting of the Sully District Council and West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA). He requested a rezoning to high-density residential for construction of 134 homes – 120, two-over-two, stacked townhouses, plus 14 rear-load



Stonebrook residents would live directly underneath flights arriving at Dulles. (Purple: arrivals; red: departures).



The FAA says homes should not be built in noise contours of 65 decibels and above.

townhouses – at the northeast corner of the Westfields Boulevard/Newbrook Drive intersection in Chantilly. Rooftop terraces are optional.

“This is an exciting project on 12 acres in Land Unit J,” said Painter. “The rears of the units won’t be visible from Westfields Boulevard or the lake, and there’ll be substantial vegetation and tree preservation.” Also planned is a publicly accessible trail along the pond, from east to west, around the entire community, plus 110,000 square feet of multi-use, open spaces.

“There’ll be tiered seating, a large green space, a smaller recreational space, two interior courtyards and a smaller, playground

area,” said Painter. “About 60 percent of the site is open space. It was planned for office use, which would have generated some 2,177 vehicle trips/day; this use would generate about 972.”

The FAA says homes should be prohibited there because it’s designated that area as being inside the 65 DNL noise contour, having a day/night average decibel noise level of 65 decibels and above. But Painter said prospective residents would be told about the aircraft overflights and no home would exceed interior noise levels of 45 DNL.

“We’ll test five units for noise while they’re under construction,” he said. “And

“This is an exciting project on 12 acres in Land Unit J.”

— Andrew Painter

we’ll disclose the potential for exterior, aircraft noise to potential buyers.” He said a noise study by the developer identified the site as being below 60 DNL.

But Michael Cooper, MWAA’s manager of state and local government relations, showed slides placing Stonebrook inside the 65 DNL and said MWAA prohibits development there. However, since the county hasn’t yet adopted MWAA’s updated noise contours, it can approve the new homes as if it were still 1993 and not 2020.

“The use of interior noise-level reduction will not reduce outdoor noise problems,” said Cooper. “Dulles will grow, and neighbors will hear planes flying overhead in this parcel. It’s right under the arrivals path.”

FURTHERMORE, MWAA’s Mark Rutyna has said aircraft noise for both Elm Street and Stonebrook could be amplified because “Dulles has three north-south runways and can have three simultaneous arrivals. These runways lie directly between Elm Street and Stonebrook, and the two closest to Stonebrook are used the most.”

“The noise hitting the playground will come directly from the aircraft, with no mitigation,” added WFCCA Land-Use Chairman John Litzenger. “The kids will get the full force of the sound.”

Ultimately, both land-use groups voted against Stanley Martin’s application. “We cannot endorse this proposal,” said Sully District Council Vice President Jeff Parnes. The groups also requested the Supervisors adopt MWAA’s 2019 noise contours.



Site Plan of the proposed Stonebrook residential community.

Virus of Racial Injustice

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



COMMENTARY

The image of a man in a uniform pressing his knee down on the neck of a hand-cuffed black man while being protected by three other uniformed individuals is so revolting and repulsive that I cannot get it out of my mind. The picture joins those in my mind of black persons being shot in the back by uniformed individuals without just cause, photos of black persons hanging by ropes around their necks while white persons hidden by white sheets and masks cheered, photos of the backs of black slaves scarred by whip lashes to keep them in their places, and others.

How loud does a black man have to cry out for his already dead momma or for his being able to breathe before the message of racial justice is heard? How many black parents must bury their children before we say that enough is enough? How long can a civilized society be tol-

erant of such blatant injustices? Is there any wonder that when these basic questions cannot be answered that people take to the streets with demonstrations to have their voices heard? While some few seek to turn demonstrations into opportunities to loot and burn, we cannot lose sight of the basic message that is being conveyed by the persons in the streets that it is way past time for change in America.

For those who have been involved in the civil rights movement throughout our lifetime, the incidents of brutality by persons who are supposed to protect us and the hate actions and speech of those who see themselves in some kind of superior position to others are deeply distressing. We can continue to strengthen our laws that protect minorities even as the laws have clear limitations to deter violence. We can support educational programs since so many of

the offensive actions come about because of ignorance. We can continue our work to ensure that our laws reflect the kind of justice and fairness that we expect of others. We can speak out in public places to make it clear to all that we stand for justice and fairness for all and that we reject racial superiority. We can join demonstrators who stand for these principles.

Before the brutality in Minneapolis occurred, the pandemic had already pulled off a scab on American society showing economic and racial injustice. The economic injustices that exist in our society have become more obvious, and the inequities of our economic system are becoming more severe. We clearly want the threat to our health from the COVID-19 crisis to pass, but we need to think twice before we seek a return to the unfair system that has developed in our country. We can learn a lot from the observations of our society during a quarantine to seek to improve it as we leave our period of isolation.

With destructive leadership at the national level, we must all step up to fill the breach. We need to work together to stamp out racial injustice in our country.

Let's Get This Right: Mask Up NOVA

It's Phase One and Executive Order 63 for Northern Virginia's reopening.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On May 29, The Northern Virginia Regional Commission announced it produced a Public Service Announcement emphasizing the importance of wearing a face mask in public indoor spaces. At the same time, the Northern Virginia region stepped into Phase One of Governor Northam's Forward Virginia blueprint and under Executive Order 63 (2020) Order of Public Health Emergency Five, Requirement to Wear Face Covering While Inside Buildings. "I am looking for people to please do the right thing," Northam said during a news briefing earlier that week. "I'm asking people to respect one another."

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission released a video highlighted by appearances from seven local, regional elected officials that urged residents to wear masks as they explained their reasons for wearing one in the fight against COVID-19. Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay, Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco, Falls Church Mayor and

Chairman of NVRC David Tarter, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall and Arlington County Chair Libby Garvey participated. McKay said, "I wear a mask to protect our most vulnerable community members." The public is invited to view the video and join the Commission's #MASKUPNOVA campaign. Information and the video can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/p7tOn3qW7vo>.

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr. is the executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, a council of thirteen member local governments in the Northern Virginia suburbs. Lazaro said, "Northern Virginia's elected regional leaders are committed to helping protect the public health. The MaskUpNoVA campaign is one such way to help inform our residents of the benefits of wearing a mask in indoor public spaces." According to P. David Tarter, Chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Mayor of the City of Falls Church, leadership starts with the leaders. "If we want to keep our citizens safe, then it's incumbent upon us to model the right behavior," said Tarter.



Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman: "I wear a mask to protect our most vulnerable community members."



Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel: "I wear a mask because it is the right thing to do during a pandemic."



Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco: "I wear a mask because I want to protect the citizens of my community."



Falls Church Mayor and Chairman of NVRC David Tarter: "I wear a mask because I care about my community."

According to Executive Order 63 (2020): "Individuals who contract the virus may still transmit the virus to others before ever showing symptoms. Therefore, a

person with no symptoms of the virus could spread it by speaking, coughing or sneezing. As more

SEE MASK UP, PAGE 5



Mask Up NOVA

FROM PAGE 4

people venture back to businesses, employees are vulnerable when patrons come in without a face covering. We must make sure workers are safe as they interact with customers.”

Executive Order 63 is divided into four key areas- Patrons, Employees, Department of Health and Effective Dates.

Face Coverings are required for all patrons in the Commonwealth aged ten and over when visiting stores, barbershops, restaurants and travel on public transportation, among other things.

Face Coverings are required for employees of essential retail businesses whenever working in customer-facing areas.

The Virginia Department of Health shall have the authority to enforce the Order. Although wearing masks will be required, the rules will be enforced through the Virginia Department of Health, not the police.

The Order remains in full force and effect from 12 a.m., Friday, May 29, 2020, until amended or

rescinded by further executive order.

There are thirty-eight questions and answers about Executive Order 63 and face coverings on the website www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/. Included is how to report an individual who is not abiding by the mandatory customer face coverings. Talk to the business owner and if that doesn't work, call 1-877-ASK-VDH3. For business owners who ask the question: “What happens if I ask a person without a face covering to leave and he or she does not leave?” According to the website: “If you (a business owner) have asked a customer to leave and they refuse, then they are likely trespassing, and you may call local law enforcement.” However, the website added: “We are focused on education, and ask everyone to be part of the solution as we adjust to this new normal.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL POSTS TO #MASKUPNOVA
Providence Supervisor Dalia Palchik,



Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson: “I wear a mask to prevent giving the virus to our frontline essential workers.”



Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall: “I wear a mask because this is not about me; it's about the community.”



Arlington County Chair Libby Garvey: “I wear a mask because I respect and care about you.”

Merrifield: “I wear a mask because it keeps our community safe.”

Marybeth Donahue Connelly, Falls Church: “As Northern Virginia moves into Phase 1 reopening, everybody needs to wear a mask in public to protect everyone else. It is sweaty. It is uncomfortable. It is awkward. And it is the right thing to do!”

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. “Check it out. And thanks to Falls Church City Councilmember Letty Hardi for creating this awesome Facebook frame - add it to your profile at bit.ly/MaskUpNoVAFrame.”



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
(From left) Chris Dittes and Richard Spencer of Reston wait in line for haircuts, masked and ready to abide with Executive Order 63 requiring all Virginians to wear face coverings while inside public spaces.

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AT&T proposes to replace an existing 27' metal light pole with a new 28' metal light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 32.9' near 12052 North Shore Dr, Reston, VA (20200794). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
AT&T proposes to replace an existing 20' wood utility pole with a new 30' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 34.3' near 3999 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly, VA (20200853). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
AT&T proposes to replace an existing 27' metal light pole with a new 29' metal light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 33.7' near 3955 Fair Ridge Dr, Fairfax, VA (20200829). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

“Herndon Cares—Live at Home” -- An online event featuring local performing artists. Tune in at 7 p.m. as your neighbors share their talents in support of Herndon Cares. This one-hour premiere event features artists including NextStop Theatre professionals, educators, students, and more. You'll enjoy inspirational, fun, and creative performances, and you'll learn more about Herndon Cares and its important mission to deliver compassion and build business one meal at a time. Streaming begins at 7 p.m. at the Herndon Cares YouTube page, which can be found on the website, <https://herndoncares.org/>.

MICROSOFT EXPANDING IN RESTON

Gov. Ralph Northam announced that Microsoft Corp. will invest \$64 million to establish a new software development and R&D regional hub, which will create 1,500 new jobs in Reston Town Center. The company will occupy 400,000 square feet at its new location, anticipated to be ready for employees in summer 2021. The plans include a new retail space for engaging directly with customers. Microsoft has had a presence in Virginia since 2002, with corporate locations in Reston and the Richmond area as well as an enterprise data center in Mecklenburg County.

MONDAY/JUNE 8

Resilience and Recovery: COVID-19. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Zoom seminar. A Virtual Town Hall with Fairfax County Officials, hosted by Cornerstones. Panelists and Town Hall Facilitators include Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District; and John Foust, Dranesville District. Also included are Fairfax County Public Schools, School Board Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District; and Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District. The registration link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76181222222>

HERNDON PARKS REOPENING

The Town of Herndon has partially reopened specific town parks starting May 29. Bready Park - The parking lot and tennis courts are open. Playgrounds, fields, restrooms and the basketball courts remain closed. Runnymede Park - The parking lot is open, and the trails remained open. Spring Street Park - open. Stanton Park - open. Trailside Park - The parking lot is open. The skate park will open by the close of business on Monday, June 1. Playgrounds, basketball courts, water fountains, and restrooms remain closed and there will be no portable restrooms available in the parks. Groups of 10 or more are not permitted. Practice physical distancing. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

LIBRARIES BEGIN CURBSIDE PICKUP

The Reston Regional Library and Patrick Henry Library will begin curbside pickup of holds and grab bags starting June 1. The curbside program is available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To pick up your holds: Park in the designated area of your library's lot and call the branch phone number posted on the sign. Branch phone numbers can also be found online on individual branch web pages. Provide your library card number to staff on the phone and remain in your car until your holds have been deposited on the pickup table and library staff have returned to the building.

RCC TO REPROGRAM SUMMER 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Reston Community Center will alter its summer programming to maximize the health and safety of patrons. This includes cancellation of summer camps, June and July outdoor concerts and events, and onsite programming. However, RCC will be providing online options to best serve the community.

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-Thomas Fuller

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Night and Now Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That wasn't so bad. Approximately 29 hours in the hospital in a private room and all I had to do was drink as much water as possible and shower half a dozen times. The goal being to rid myself of the radioiodine I had been given at the beginning of my admission. This "therapy" is used to measure the iodine related to my papillary thyroid cancer and to determine presumably, whether in fact the tumors in my lungs are thyroid cancer which has moved or whether it's still lung cancer or both.

To say my life depends on the results of this finding and the interpretation of the follow-up gamma camera scans this Tuesday is perhaps a bit much. But my life expectancy sure depends on it, as well as my treatment life going forward. There's too many ifs, ands or buts to present here, but suffice to say, my future, yet again, is sort of up for grabs.

For the moment however, I feel mostly fine. I'm back eating the foods that I love, after a 31 day lull when I was on the low iodine diet, so all is semi back to normal. Being able to satiate once again does soothe the ravenous beast inside me. Nevertheless, there are bigger problems/possible solutions in the offing that M&Ms, Double Stuf Oreos and Entenmann's Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake can really address. Still, if I'm going to go down, I can now go down with a smile on my face and a delicious dessert/snack in my mouth.

In a way, I'm back on the precipice. Are the tumors in my lungs all lung cancer which has previously led to my being given a "terminal diagnosis/prognosis: "13 months to two years" back in late February, 2009 or are they papillary thyroid cancer, stage II; not terminal, and not just treatable, but curable? Or are they something in between, as yet undiagnosed? Maybe I've developed new tumors? Maybe I'm to be diagnosed with a third type of cancer? Maybe, maybe, maybe. That's how I have to roll for the next few weeks (thyroid cancer) and the next six weeks (lung cancer) when I will have the usual upper torso CT scan of my lungs, the first one I will have had in over five months (all my lung cancer-related treatment was stopped while we addressed the thyroid cancer). Perhaps in mid-July I'll know the "end of the story" as radio icon Paul Harvey used to sign off; "Good day!"

For now, all I can do is wait and not "smoke em if I got 'em" but "keep my powder dry" and "keep my eyes on the prize." It's really no different than pretty much how I've managed to live my life since I got the diagnosis 11 years and over three months ago. Although, oddly enough it feels different than it did before as if I didn't have as much at stake then as I do now. Almost as if this is my last chance to catch a break, especially considering that living nearly a decade past my original prognosis I've already received a lot of breaks. Somehow though, this medical-diagnosis-to-be conjures a kind of inexplicable finality.

I don't want to go back. I want to go forward. Unfortunately, which direction I'm headed is out of my control. The endocrinologist and the oncologist will tell me whether I "Return to Jail" or "Pass Go and Collect \$200." They will be monopolizing my future and in so advising, will indirectly determine my covid-19 risk as well. Will I be visiting my healthcare provider/facility regularly for treatment and possibly exposing myself to the virus

(which would be a major complication for a patient like me: over 65, with lung disease and a weakened immune system) or will I be able to live my life without any of the life-ending-type fears I've had since 2009, and the world has had since the first quarter of 2020?

So even though I don't know for sure that my life is at stake, I think I can definitely say that my living is. Will it be cancer-centric or not? Either way, I'll live with the outcome. The only question is: for how long?

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



The 13 graduates gather for a group photo before the parade in Centreville.



(From left) Kailee Corbett, Ellie Reimer and Taylor Kim smile from a sunroof.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

‘We Didn’t Know it Would End that Fast’

Centreville’s Gate Post Estates holds a graduation parade.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to COVID-19, this year’s high-school seniors didn’t get to have their achievements and graduation recognized in a public way. So moms Liz MacDonald and Amy McConaghie of Centreville’s Gate Post Estates community organized a parade in their honor.

Thirteen grads – 11 from Westfield High and two from Paul VI High – live in that neighborhood. And last Friday evening, May 29, they donned their caps and gowns, got into decorated vehicles and were driven by their parents through the community while the residents clapped and cheered.

“Their senior year ended abruptly, and they missed out on so much – senior prom, sports and student-government banquets, barbecues and awards ceremonies,” explained MacDonald. “We’re just trying to make lemonade out of the lemons being thrown at them.”

“While FCPS will eventually hold a virtual graduation, that’s not the real deal,” she continued. “And talk of a possible, full graduation ceremony in the fall is a moot point, as these kids are slated to be off to college. So we took matters into our own hands. We’ve never had a parade in our neighborhood, so we put flyers on everybody’s mailboxes to let them know about it.”

SIGNS with each student’s photo were posted along the parade route, which the vehicles traveled three times. Also participating were Westfield Principal Anthony Copeland, the school’s bulldog mascot, a fire engine from Centreville’s Station 38 and a police



Westfield grad John Simmons rides in Gate Post Estates’ graduation parade.

cruiser from the Sully District Station.

MacDonald’s daughter, Lindsey, played field hockey and lacrosse at Westfield and said she’ll miss her teammates. She’s headed to the University of Tennessee to major in supply-chain management. “I was sad not getting to finish out the school year with my friends,” she said. “But I think it’s so nice that the moms planned this as an alternative since we didn’t get to have any graduation.”

Taylor Kim will attend JMU, majoring in education, but said it’s hard since she and all her friends are going their separate ways. Toughest, said Kim, was “not getting closure and not seeing my teachers anymore. I had my last day of school without even knowing it.”

Alan Gutierrez-Urista missed his theater family at Westfield. “We were going to have

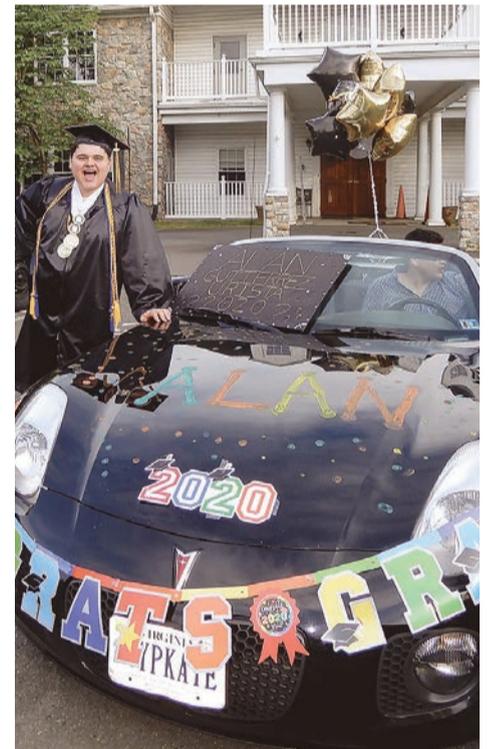


Andres Lopez enjoys himself during the parade.

lots of fun with our production of ‘Into the Woods,’” he said. “But I’m looking forward to what the future has to offer. I’m going to continue with musical theater and become a Broadway star.”

Colby Davoren was saddest about missing senior prom. “It was going to be on my birthday, so it was a double whammy,” he said. Heading to Clemson to major in computer science, he was thrilled about the parade because “We get a second chance to have a real graduation, as opposed to virtual.”

Ellie Reimer said she’ll miss going to school with people she knows and “the comfort of seeing friends in the morning. She’ll attend N.C. State, majoring in engineering. But she wishes she could have said goodbye to her high-school teachers. “We didn’t know it would end that fast,” she said.



Alan Gutierrez-Urista poses beside his dad’s car before the parade begins.

Heading to JMU, majoring in health science to become a physician’s assistant, Kailee Corbett said, “We missed graduation. But I’m really happy we’re doing this parade to make up for it.”

AVA BURKAT felt bad about missing prom and “not being able to see everybody all together for the last time.” This was Paul VI’s final year in Fairfax before moving to Loudoun County, in the fall, so Burkat regrets “not spending those last few months at the old building.”

She’ll attend The Catholic University of America to pursue a degree in early childhood education. Regarding the parade, she said, “It’s great; it feels special. Even though the last few months were kind of unpredictable, this was something I could count on.”