

CONNECTION

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WELLBEING

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PHOTO BY ERIN MATHER

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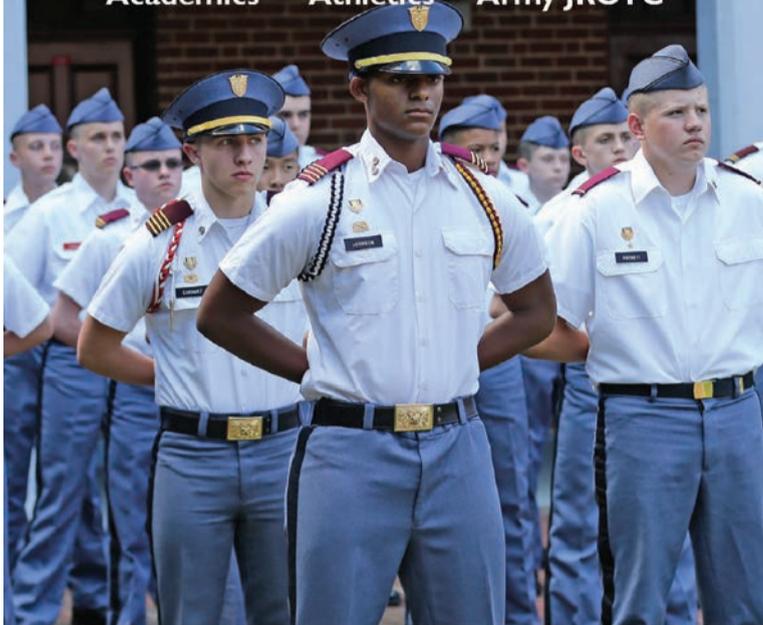
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BULLETIN BOARD

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

LIDL STORE IN FAIRFAX OPENS

The Lidl Store at 11179 Lee Highway in Fairfax held its grand opening on July 29. The store will operate from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. The Fairfax store will be Lidl's 27th in Virginia and second in Fairfax County.

COUNTY OFFERS 14 SATELLITE ABSENTEE VOTING

In anticipation of a high voter turnout, Fairfax County will offer 14 satellite locations for in-person absentee voting for the Nov. 3, general election. The Board of Supervisors established these locations during their July 14, meeting. For the 2020 presidential election, the county is increasing its absentee voting locations compared to the nine that were available in 2016. Election officials called for added locations because they are anticipating a high turnout — especially with the new state law that allows “no-excuse” absentee voting. Until now, voters were required to have a reason to vote absentee.

These 14 satellite locations will be open for in-person absentee voting starting on Oct. 14:

- Centreville Regional Library, 14200 Saint Germain Drive, Centreville
- Franconia Governmental Center 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- Great Falls Library 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- Herdon Fortnightly Library 768 Center Street, Herndon
- Laurel Hill Golf Club 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton

- Mason Governmental Center 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
 - McLean Governmental Center 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean
 - Mount Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria
 - North County Governmental Center 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston
 - Providence Community Center 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
 - Sully Governmental Center 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly
 - Thomas Jefferson Library 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church
 - Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
 - West Springfield Governmental Center 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- These locations are currently proposed to be open weekdays from 1 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the Fairfax County Electoral Board may decide to adjust these hours later this summer based on the interest in absentee voting by mail.

SUNDAY/AUG. 16

Facebook Virtual Tour. 1 p.m. Join the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum's live Facebook Virtual Tour with running T-TRAK Model Trains. Enjoy watching and interacting on the Station's Facebook site, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. You can enjoy these exciting model trains from the comfort and safety of your own home. The virtual tour is free and open to the public. Visit the Station's website, www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 18

Pink Elephant Thrift Shop Reopens. 9:30 a.m. At 6127 Backlick Road, Springfield. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. 9:30-11 a.m. for consignors only -- no new consignors right now. No donations. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for customers. Visit the website: womansclubofspringfield.org

THURSDAY/ AUG. 20

Evenings on the Ellipse: Junkyard Band. 7:30 p.m. Virtual event. The Junk Yard Band is a go-go band, founded in the early 1980s by children playing on improvised instruments. To view a livestream concert, go to the Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series main page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance, select the date on the calendar for this performance, and click on the links for the livestream video.

TELL YOUR PANDEMIC STORY

The Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room is collecting materials that will help future generations understand what it was like to live in Fairfax during the COVID-19 pandemic. Submit your stories, photographs, journal entries, short video clips, art images, or other digital files by June 10, 2020, using this online form: bit.ly/34HZvS8. (If you don't have a Google account, you can email the Virginia Room with your stories at va_room@fairfaxcounty.gov.) Virginia Room COVID-19 Project.png

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NEWS

Gap Between Relief Funds, Eviction Moratorium Could Cause Mass Evictions

Slow: 12,000 eviction cases in courts statewide while only 300 tenant households had received federal funds.

BY MARY PADEN
THE CONNECTION

The expiration of the state eviction moratorium and the refusal of the Fairfax District Court to extend it locally past July 10 has sent Fairfax County legal aid attorneys and Health and Human Services Department staff into a flurry of action to try to get federal assistance to the 500 tenants currently on the docket for eviction proceedings. Less than a quarter of households seeking rent assistance from the county have gotten it so far, with most still in processing.

The situation is worse throughout the state. At a press conference July 17, VOICE, a faith-based community action group, said there were 12,000 eviction cases in courts statewide while only 300 tenant households had received federal funds.

Ironically, low-income tenants — those most affected by the pandemic and shutdown — may face eviction while federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds sit in the bank.

The Fairfax NAACP and the South County Task Force called on Gov. Ralph Northam today to extend the moratorium until CARES rent relief funds can be distributed to tenants. VOICE called for a moratorium through Aug. 31. Other statewide groups have also recommended a new moratorium.

Meanwhile, last week the federal eviction moratorium for landlords with federally backed loans expired (on July 25), as did the extension on unemployment insurance. The federal forbearance program applied to only 30-40 percent of rental properties, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Many housing groups are calling on Congress to provide more rent relief and housing funding as part of the HEROs Act which is before the Senate, because the pandemic and economic slowdown are dragging out much longer than anticipated in the original CARES Act. Virginia Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine have co-sponsored some of the housing bills.

Eviction Tsunami Predicted Since April

A summer eviction tsunami was predicted last April by national housing think tanks and advocates such as the Urban Institute and Enterprise, and the Urban League. The \$2 trillion federal CARES Act signed March 27, plus various state eviction moratoria, were designed to shore up out-of-work low and moderate income renters. But funds were slow to get out and eviction moratoria are expiring nationwide before the payments can be distributed.



GAZETTE FILE PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT

An eviction protest in Alexandria earlier in July.

Fairfax County received CARES funds in early May and designated \$20 million for housing stability, utilities, and food support in mid-May. Gov. Northam announced a \$50 million CARES rent relief fund on June 25 and asked Circuit Courts to extend eviction moratoria so the state could get the funds out. The state Supreme Court moratorium ended June 28 and circuit courts did not renew it.

Some Tenants Self-evict to Keep Record Clean

The state moratorium did not prevent landlords from sending threatening letters to tenants in the meantime. About 50 percent of renters "self-evict" after receiving such letters from landlords, according to VOICE, because an eviction on their record can prevent them from being able to rent another apartment. Most tenants in eviction court have no legal representation and those without it face nearly 100 percent chance of eviction, whereas those with an attorney face about a 50 percent chance of eviction, according to Northern Virginia legal aid attorneys.

Legislation passed at the 2020 session allows a 60-day postponement of an eviction if the tenant can show proof of being laid off because of the pandemic. But most tenants don't know about this and don't have an attorney to tell them. Many very-low-income tenants worked jobs that did not provide documentation of a Covid layoff.

Scrambling to Help in Fairfax District Court

In Fairfax County, Northern Virginia Legal Aid attorney Dipti Pidikiti-Smith and others are going all out to identify clients and connect them with rent relief assistance at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dean Klein, former head of the Office



to Prevent and End Homelessness, heads a task force that includes members from legal aid, HHS, the Department of Housing, and the Sheriff's office to alert tenants and landlords to the possibility of paying rent with CARES funds.

To get CARES funds out quickly, the county gave grants to various nonprofits throughout the county with which it has relationships. It designed a system whereby people in need must call the county's emergency hotline for an intake process after which they are directed to a nonprofit in their area that cuts a check to their landlords or utilities.

However, the hotline was overwhelmed with calls, especially after the number was advertised widely, and callers faced a long wait — over an hour in some cases. As of the end of June, the hotline had received 4,885 calls requesting rent relief alone, up about 300 percent over the previous year, and with over 3,000 first-time callers. Calls spiked the week of July 15, with 5,654 calls (up 600 percent) after the number appeared in the media. But so far, just over 1,000 tenants have received CARES rent relief (of up to 4 months' rent) according to county staff. It is not clear what is causing the bottleneck, but HHS is bringing in additional intake operators and has promised to give the Board of Supervisors a plan to streamline the hotline system.

Meanwhile, Klein's task force is trying to help tenants on the brink of eviction. Legal aid is trying to get in touch with landlords to let them know rent relief funds are available through the county and giving them guidance on how to get mortgage forbearance. Earlier the county had sent letters to landlords with information about the moratorium and forthcoming CARES funds, but the follow up was unclear.

"We have a huge battle ahead of us with

the moratorium ending," Klein said. Some people have not been able to pay rent for three to four months and they usually struggle to pay one month's rent."

AT THE END OF MAY, the South County Task Force and 37 other organizations in Northern Virginia — including the Fairfax NAACP, the Equity Agenda Coalition, SIEU, and two teachers unions — plus 14 Fairfax County legislators, sent a letter to Northam asking for an extension of the moratorium through Aug. 31. The Southern Poverty Law Center in Richmond asked for the same.

The South County Task Force letter noted that "In an analysis of eviction moratoria in 50 states, Princeton's Eviction Lab's interactive Policy Scorecard rated Virginia's Supreme Court ordered moratorium only a half-star out of five stars, because it lacked most of the provisions that would alleviate a rent crisis when the moratorium lifts" and that "Governors in 30 states have issued executive orders to halt evictions."

Northam has insisted that he doesn't have the authority to order an eviction moratorium, but a July 15 letter from Attorney General Mark Herring in response to a query from several legislators says, "The Governor has both the executive and statutory authority to issue emergency orders.... Whether any particular executive order is an appropriate exercise of emergency power depends on the scope of the executive order and the facts and circumstances."

Herring also said the "General Assembly can pass legislation placing limitations on evictions" as well as "pass legislation allowing localities to place limitations on evictions."

The General Assembly starts a special session Aug. 18 that is restricted to dealing with the budget and police reform, but an eviction moratorium might be appropriate if the Governor does not act by then.



Site plan of the newly approved EYA residential development.



Artist's rendition of the townhouses to be built in Fairfax City.

'We Don't Have a Project Similar to This'

Fairfax City Council approves 50 new townhouses.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Courtesy of a Comprehensive Plan amendment and a rezoning, 50 townhouses will eventually be built on the site of a church moving from its current site in Fairfax City. After 16 months of discussions, Fairfax City Council recently approved the plan, which also includes some affordable housing.

EYA Development LLC will construct single-family, attached townhouses on some 3.7 acres at DC Metro Church's location at 3500 Pickett Road. They'll be four stories and 45 feet high, and the site will have a density of 13 homes/acre.

"We're well-known and have done many projects in the region," said Aakash Thakkar, a partner and executive vice president with EYA. "This will be our first in Fairfax City. We wanted to provide

townhouses for the mixed-use, Pickett Road corridor. And we'll offer optional elevators, which have been well-received by senior citizens."

Planned are 25 front-loaded units along two sides of the site's perimeter, each with two, side-by-side, garage parking spaces, plus two driveway spaces, for 100 spaces total. The 20 rear-loaded units in the interior will also have two, side-by-side, garage parking spaces for 40 spaces total.

THE FIVE AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNITS (ADUs) will each have two tandem garage parking spaces (one vehicle behind the other) for 10 spaces total. There'll also be 20 on-street spaces, for an overall total of 170. The 45 market-rate townhouses will come in 20- and 24-foot-wide models; the ADUs will be 16 feet wide.

Councilmember Sang Yi decried the loss of about 200 trees for this project. And Councilmember So Lim noted that the ADUs will

SEE CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 5

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City Council Approves 50 New Townhouses

FROM PAGE 4

be much smaller than the other townhomes. But Brooke Hardin, director of Community Development and Planning, said they'll have a selling price of about \$300,000 and be affordable to people earning 70 percent of the area medium income (which is above \$100,000).

Since bringing this residential proposal to the Council last year, EYA representatives have had many meetings with the residents of the nearby Barrister's Keepe community. And, said Thakkar, "Many of our modifications came from them. We've also worked in close collaboration with City staff.

"In June 2019, we proposed more density, less parking and not as much buffering between the site and Barrister's Keepe," he continued. "We went from 65 to 52 to 50 units; and, for privacy, no houses will back up to that community. We moved the homes we'd proposed there to the other side of the site." In addition, the unit closest to Barrister's Keepe will be three stories, instead of four.

The approved project also includes a park along Pickett Road for community gatherings, but open to the public, too. There's a sidewalk on the new neighborhood's private street, right-of-way dedication for a multi-use path on Pickett, a 5-foot-wide pedestrian trail along the northern property line and two access points to Pickett.

Sweetening the deal further, EYA will also contribute \$122,000 toward the construction of the Daniels Run Trail extension. This trail will eventually connect Daniels Run Park to both Pickett Road and Main Street.

"Our tagline is 'Life within Walking Distance,' and we like to build in neighborhoods," explained Thakkar. "We take walkability seriously and are very community-oriented. We're also one of the foremost providers of ADUs in a for-sale, townhouse configuration, and they'll have the same ar-

chitecture and quality of materials – both inside and outside – as the other units."

"The 16-foot unit we're proposing for ADUs here is a market-rate unit that we sell in other locations," he added. "It's three bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths. It costs us \$600,000 or more to build an ADU that'll ultimately be sold for about \$300,000."

"We could have built 45 units without the ADUs, but we thought the right thing to do for our first experience in the City of Fairfax was to include them," said Thakkar. "Five families will be able to afford them and call them home, and it's something we're really passionate about."

EYA ARCHITECT Jack McLaurin said the buildings' exteriors will feature a combination of earth-tone brick and cedar siding, plus bay-window extensions. "We'll provide an attractive, walkable streetscape with significant landscaping," he said. "And we'll have traditional streetlights along Pickett Road, plus 15, more-contemporary, internal streetlights lining the park and promenade area."

Thakkar anticipated construction to start in the first quarter of 2021. "This project has come a long way from when we first looked at it, and I'm comfortable with the ADUs," said Councilmember Janice Miller. "We don't have a project similar to this, and I'm glad the sidewalks will give the residents access from their homes to Pickett Road."

Then, before Council unanimously approved the project, resident Brian Knapp spoke on behalf of the Barrister's Keepe community. "Knowing the church would move away someday, we worried that what would replace it wouldn't be compatible with us, so we're pleased with this townhouse development," he said. "And we've spent thousands and thousands of dollars battling the stormwater runoff from that property, so we're really happy that EYA will take care of it."

"Our tagline is 'Life within Walking Distance,' and we like to build in neighborhoods ... We take walkability seriously and are very community-oriented."

— Aakash Thakkar, a partner and executive vice president with EYA

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OPINION

Creating More Equitable Admissions Policies for Magnet Schools

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

We need more equitable admissions practices in what are called “Governor’s Schools.” Earlier this month, Gov. Ralph Northam appointed me to a task force with about 20 other individuals including Secretary of Education Atif Qarni to examine equity within our Governor’s Schools System. Governor’s Schools were created in 1973 to provide an intense, summer academic experience to high-achieving students and were later expanded to full-year programs, including Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) in Fairfax County which also also serves Prince William and Arlington Counties.

I have often expressed concerns about TJHSST’s admissions practices. Very few children from eastern Fairfax or Prince William Counties are admitted. When I reviewed data a few years ago, fewer than five children had been admitted out of 125 applicants from Walt Whitman Intermediate School. In the most recent freshman class, there were none or there were so few African American students admitted that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was prohibited from releasing the actual number.

This history means that the student population in these schools is very unrepresentative of Northern Virginia, a region with a very diverse population. TJHSST’s current student population has less than 2% “economically disadvantaged” students as measured by students that receive free and reduced lunches. The feeder,



non-Fairfax County jurisdictions all are 27.3% economically disadvantaged. TJHSST’s current student population is now 70% Asian, 25% White and less than 2% Black and Hispanic, while its feeder jurisdictions are 18% Asian, 39% White, 11% Black, and 27% Hispanic.

Over 25% of each class’s admissions come from two middle schools – Rachel Carson in McLean and Longfellow in Falls Church. Most of

the middle schools that are in eastern Fairfax and Prince William counties have fewer than five students – often zero – admitted students.

The problems leading to these results start in elementary school. There is well-documented research indicating that minority children are often not identified or encouraged to participate in elementary gifted and talented programs. There is also a strong correlation between recommendations and the race of the teacher. In other words, low numbers or the absence of minority teachers is associated with fewer minority children recommended for gifted programs. Economically disadvantaged families are not aware of such programs and do not advocate for their children to enroll in them. Schools with large economically disadvantaged student populations have fewer gifted programs.

We also heard some surprising testimony. First, gifted and talented programs arose during the 1960s in response to school desegregation efforts, and also have their roots in eugenics research. Admissions to gifted programs are also keyed solely to intelligence testing instead of other variables such as creativity, problem-solv-

ing ability or other talents.

TJHSST’s principal pointed out that TJHSST’s success – measured by standardized test performance -- has brought international acclaim which has encouraged “Thomas” branded prep elementary schools to arise in foreign countries that feed students into specific Fairfax County middle schools for admissions after families obtain visas. She said that private test preparation programs pay students to remember certain questions and report them back so they can prepare students in \$14,000/year TJHSST preparation programs that meet regularly with their own homework and curriculum.

Many have been aware of these facts for over a decade and little action has been taken, which is why the General Assembly needs to act.

There are multiple admissions approaches that could be used. TJHSST currently uses an admissions test and an essay. According to the research, this type of admissions program is the most likely of any to favor family wealth over any other admissions factor, like a child’s ability.

Let me be clear: We are not considering a racial quota system. That is unconstitutional.

We will consider recommending alternate admissions processes that cannot be gamed by wealthy or advantaged families such as a lottery system with equitable scoring systems, middle school admissions minimums or caps, offering admission to top students of each middle school and allowing competition for remaining spots or other processes. We will also consider eliminating Governor’s Schools if they are unable to adopt more equitable admissions policies.

I hope you will share your views with me. Please send me an email at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your State Senator.

Lifetime of Learning

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

My mom and dad had little or no formal education which was not that unusual for children in large families growing up in rural Virginia in the 1920s. What they lacked in schooling they made up in basic values of honesty and hard work. Their ambition for their three sons of which I was the youngest was to finish school which for them meant high school. Mom’s advice to me for I had obvious interests in doing more than graduating high school and working a local job was captured in the words of the country music song of Earl Scruggs and later Ricky Skaggs, “Don’t Get Above Your Raisin.”

Going off to college as the first in my family to do so was a frightening experience but one that soon became a labor of love. I could not learn enough about the world around me and most especially about history and politics. I was a product of a public school system in Virginia, and even as a youngster I knew that



the story of the state was much more complex and involved than the glorification of its history presented in the state-approved textbooks. My love of learning led me to finish an undergraduate degree in history and political history at the then Old Dominion College. I went on to the University of Virginia where I received a master’s degree in teaching the social studies in 1967. That program had an internship experience that led to me being placed in Fairfax County Public Schools from which I retired thirty years later.

I refused to use the state-approved textbook on Virginia history in my classroom because of the distortions and misinformation it contained. My school administrator supported me, and a few years later I consulted with FCPS when it produced its own edition of a more-accurate Virginia history textbook. Also about the same time, I announced my candidacy for the House of Delegates and was elected on my third try. My interest was not to change school textbooks but to help alter the course of the state’s history

to remedy the many wrongs of its past and to make it a state where all people had equal opportunity. I knew about the inequality of opportunity in the state by my volunteer work with the Community Action Agency.

Setting aside challenges related to the pandemic and the craziness of the current federal administration, I feel a greater sense of hope for the Commonwealth than I believe I have ever had. I have written often about the transformative General Assembly session this year and the passage of much-needed legislation on fairness and equality that had been debated and never passed for years. This month the General Assembly will take another important step in reforming our criminal justice system.

As my friend and historian Bent Tarter wrote recently in a column “Black Lives and Confederate Monuments,” (www.virginiaforum.org) “We all have much to learn, or we will continue to repeat the sorry sequences of violence that exacerbate rather than solve problems. Learning, one of my college teachers explained, should involve a change in behavior.” As a native Virginian I sense that now more than ever we will at long last be seeing changes in behavior in the Commonwealth.

CONNECTION

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Ellie's Hats Reaches \$100,000 Donation Milestone

The money goes to families of children with cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Founded in 2014, Ellie's Hats makes life a little brighter for children with cancer and their families. It began when P.E. teacher Jay Coakley wanted to do something nice for one of his kindergarten students, Ellie Whitfield.

She was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2013; and when her treatments caused her to lose her hair, she started wearing hats to school. Seeing how happy those hats made her, Coakley organized a hat drive for the child.

He also wanted to bring that same joy to other children suffering from cancer, while raising awareness of the disease, so he founded the nonprofit Ellie's Hats. Most of the hats come from drives held by schools and groups, in addition to the many hand-knitted and hand-crocheted hats donated by people throughout the U.S.

But the organization's motto is "More Than Just a Hat" – and for good reason. Besides raising the hat recipients' self-esteem,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAY COAKLEY

(Standing, from left) are Joe DePalma (of Ellie's Hats' Website), Jay Coakley, nurses from Pediatric Specialists of Virginia, Brian Drummond (Ellie's Hats Board member), and (kneeling) is Cathy Bottrell (Life With Cancer social worker).

Ellie's Hats helps their cash-strapped families by giving them gas cards, gift certificates and money to help them through difficult and expensive times.

Equally important, it also contributes to hospitals and clinics treating pediatric cancer patients. It makes monetary donations

and provides them with items including iPads, TVs, DVD players and gift cards. And in 2019, Ellie's Hats partnered with the social workers at Pediatrics Specialists of Virginia (PSV) to help the children's families in an additional way.

"Each month, PSV selects five families in

need of financial help," explained Coakley. "They give us each family's name, and then those five families each receive a \$1,000 check from us."

And last Wednesday, July 29, Ellie's Hats reached a major milestone since launching this fundraising initiative with PSV. On that date, Coakley and Ellie's Hats board member Brian Drummond delivered five more checks, totaling \$5,000, to PSV – thereby reaching the remarkable achievement of donating \$100,000 total to this organization since the partnership began.

They made the donation at the Schar Cancer Institute (across from Inova Fairfax Hospital), one of the clinics where many of the children go for their treatments. And Coakley couldn't have been happier.

"As Ellie's Hats has grown, we have been fortunate enough to receive generous donations from our community," he said. "These donations have enabled us to continue our mission of helping financially struggling families. More than anything, this event was a reflection of what's possible when we all come together to support a greater cause."

For more information about Ellie's Hats, go to ellieshats.org. Pediatric Specialists of Virginia, with locations in both Fairfax and Fair Oaks, provides medical care to children. Learn more at psvcare.org.

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WELLBEING

Back-to-School Vaccinations Required, Even with Distance Learning

Free vaccine clinics are designed to help ensure that all children are vaccinated.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 THE CONNECTION

While there's a cloud of uncertainty over what the back-to school season will look like this year, one thing is certain: children still need to be vaccinated. Pandemic-induced online learning might lead some parents to believe that vaccinations are not mandatory, however, the form in which academics are offered this school year won't alter immunization requirements.

"It is important for parents to know that school required immunizations are mandatory ... even if students attend school virtually in the fall," said Shauna Severo, Director of Health Services with the Fairfax County Health Department.

"Vaccinations are required by the Department of Education, a requirement that applies to all school systems in the state, not just Arlington," added Cara O'Donnell, Acting Public Information Officer, Public Health Division, Arlington Department of Human Services. "This vaccinating is critical to preventing outbreaks of common vaccine-preventable illnesses when schools eventually reopen. We are offering appointments for kids who require catch up vaccinations to be in compliance with ... vaccination requirements for school entry."

This requirement also applies to students in the State of Maryland. "At a time when our healthcare system is already overwhelmed with COVID19, it is important that we avoid outbreaks of preventable deadly diseases," said Cindy Edwards, Senior Administrator for Communicable Disease and Epidemiology. "That is why we encourage Montgomery County families to reach out to your doctor and make a plan for staying up to date with recommended vaccines."

Concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, however, have discouraged some parents from seeking vaccines for their children. "We are offering these community based vaccination clinics and Tdap (tetanus (T), diphtheria (D), and pertussis) clinics in our offices because we've seen a decrease in the number of vaccination appointments this year," said Tina Dale, Communications Specialist, Fairfax County Health Department.

As in years past, Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and Montgomery counties are offering free vaccines to families who could not afford them, but this year, appointments are required and counties are taking necessary precautions to ease the minds of parents who fear exposure to COVID. "To minimize exposure risk, the health department will adhere to strict safety protocols, including limiting the number of appointments per site, requiring the wearing of face coverings, and ensuring appropriate social distancing measures are in place," said Dale.

Pediatricians reported a 30-76 percent decrease in administering routine childhood immunizations earlier this spring, in part because well-child visits were being conducted virtually. To avoid compounding the coronavirus pandemic, the CDC emphasized the importance of routine immunizations, a cornerstone of public health.



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Even though the start of the school year will mean distance learning at home this year, children are still required to be vaccinated to enroll.

Clinics Offering Free Vaccines

Immunization Records and Appointments are Required

ARLINGTON COUNTY

Arlington County Immunization Clinic
 2100 Washington Blvd., 2nd floor (Sequoia Plaza)
 For more information or to make an appointment: 703-228-1200

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Dennis Avenue Health Center Immunization Clinic
 For more information and to schedule an appointment: 240-777-1050

FAIRFAX COUNTY

- ❖ Aug. 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Rd., Springfield
 - ❖ Aug. 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Anthony Catholic, 3305 Glen Carlyn Rd., Bailey's Crossroads
 - ❖ Aug. 17, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Mt. Vernon Elementary, 6100 Stone Rd. Centreville
 - ❖ Aug. 20, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Annandale District Office, 7611 Little River Tnpk, #400E, Annandale
 - ❖ Aug. 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mt. Vernon District Office, 8350 Richmond Hwy, #233, Alexandria
 - ❖ Sept. 3, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Baptist Church of Springfield, 7300 Gary St., Springfield
 - ❖ Sept. 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Location to be Determined
- For more information and to schedule an appointment: 703-246-6010

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Immunization Services
 4480 King Street, Second Floor
 For more information or to make an appointment: 703-746-4888

It's important to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases like pertussis (also known as whooping cough), meningitis, rotavirus, measles, and others. Reach out to your pediatrician to find out what accommodations they are making, whether your children are up to date on their vaccinations, and to schedule their inoculations. Remember, vaccines are critical to protecting the health and welfare of our children and our community. We don't want to precipitate a second public health crisis.

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NEWS

Hannah Lee and Heather Belfort, rising seniors at Lake Braddock Secondary School share their passion for STEM education with youngsters in the area.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lake Braddock Students Launch 'STEM to Inspire'

STEM to Inspire is a student-run nonprofit aimed to bridge the income gap in the STEM field. Lake Braddock Secondary School rising seniors, Hannah Lee and Heather Belfort, started this organization because they both have passion for STEM subjects and felt there was disparity for those who don't have that same opportunity.

They began reaching out to do workshops at St. Stephen's Methodist Church Grace Ministries event where they feed the homeless people in the community. When they gained momentum, they began to reach out to Title I schools, schools that receive extra funding

from Fairfax County Public Schools. After a year of work, they've reached out to more than 50 kids and have more than 10 chapters nationwide. They are grateful to have the opportunity to give others a chance to seek passion in astronomy, physics, or computer design. Even through Covid-19 circumstances, they were able to host summer online workshops with Mount Eagle Elementary School. Not only have they encouraged young minds to pursue the STEM field, they also showed the power of youth. Although a student-run organization, they seek to aid the issues in their community one step at a time.

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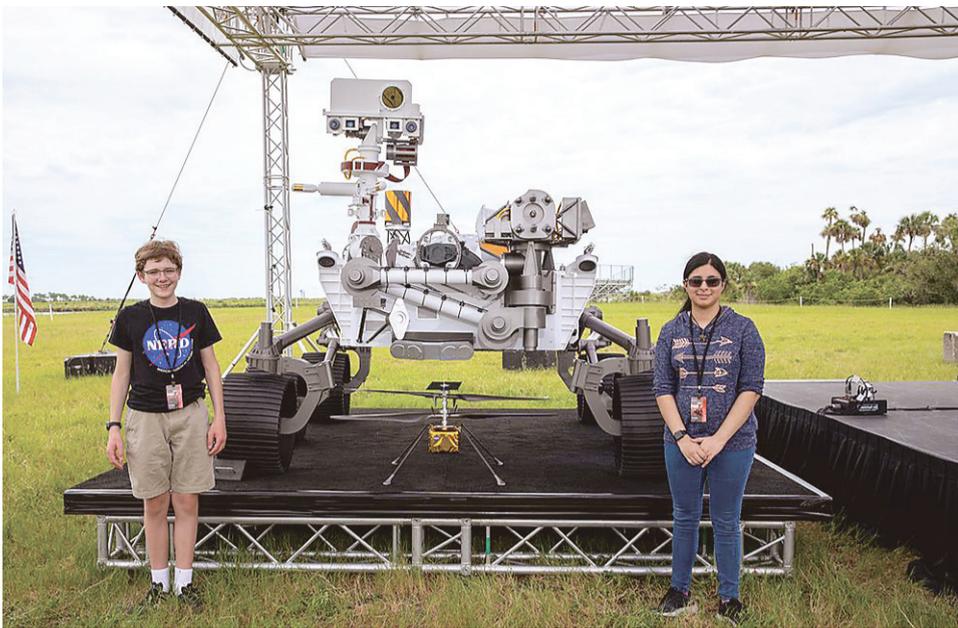


PHOTO BY NASA

Students Alex Mather, at left, and Vaneeza Rupani, stand near the countdown clock at the News Center at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on July 28, 2020. Mather named the Perseverance rover, and Rupani named the Ingenuity helicopter.



PHOTO BY ERIN MATHER

Alex was all over the media for a few days.

Lake Braddock Seventh Grader Makes a Giant Step for Mankind

Alexander Mather wins the contest to name Mars rover and witnesses the lift off.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Standing on the viewing balcony with NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine, NASA scientist Dr. Lori Glaze, engineers, and his sister Kyra, Burke seventh grader Alexander Mather was in his element. He recently named the Mars rover "Perseverance," and won a NASA contest to earn his place on the deck at Cape Canaveral.

It took perseverance for the NASA team to send a rocket to Mars, and more perseverance for Alexander to win a competition to name the Mars rover that's packed onto the NASA rocket, so it was an all-around fantastic experience that he will never forget.

"These were American heroes," he was out there with. "Perseverance just kind of came to me, it was best for the mission, that's why I chose it," Alexander said. Perseverance has a human quality, and that played heavily on his choice.

The name contest began last August. Nearly 4,700 volunteer judges consisting of educators, professionals and space enthusiasts from around the country, reviewed submissions to help narrow the pool down to 155 semifinalists. Once that group was whittled down to nine finalists, the public had five days to weigh in on their favorites, logging more than 770,000 votes online, with the results submitted to NASA for consideration. The nine finalists also talked with a panel of experts, including Dr. Glaze; NASA astronaut Jessica Watkins; rover driver Nick Wiltsie at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

in Pasadena, California; and Clara Ma, who, as a sixth-grade student in 2009, named Curiosity.

The experience has had a huge impact on Alex, said his mother Erin Mather, who was on the trip to the launch pad in Florida. "Our favorite part was definitely the launch, the NASA folks seemed calm and confident but we couldn't help but feel nervous," she said.

Vaneeza Rupani, a junior at Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport, Ala., also named NASA's Mars Helicopter traveling to Mars with Perseverance through the same contest. Her name for the helicopter was "Ingenuity," and she was also on the balcony watching the launching.

According to NASA, perseverance is expected to land on Mars on Feb. 18, 2021. The rover will search for habitable conditions in the ancient past and signs of past microbial life on Mars. It will be the first mission to get samples of the planet and bring them back to Earth. The launch date was originally planned for July 17, but they pushed it back a few days, so the landing date could change by a few days.

CLASSROOM LAUNCHPAD

As with others his age, Alexander has many other interests in addition to space travels. He's into robotics also, and explained the link to the term "Arduino,"



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

On the stage at Lake Braddock, Alex meets Perseverance.

which is an "open-source electronic prototyping platform enabling users to create interactive electronic objects," their company information stated. Alex credits his parents for sending him to space camp for his eleventh birthday, and his father David said that the camp was a big influence. "He wants to go to Mars. He's always been interested in science and space," David Mather said.

In early March when the votes had been tallied up, the officials at Lake Braddock got word of Alex's winning entry and gathered everyone in the auditorium for the announcement. The surprise announcement was aired live from NASA in California. Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the science mission directorate at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., says, "Curiosity is always a part of exploration, but the flip side of curiosity is perseverance. Perseverance and curiosity are

what exploration is all about." So it was Alex's entry along with his essay, which he read aloud, that won the main prize.

In the essay, Alex talked about the achievements of the human race. "The human race will always persevere into the future," the essay said. Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand addressed Alex and the students at Lake Braddock. "This school is planting the seed in you. This school will have a lasting presence in space," Brabrand said.

CONTEST ENTRY

Alex's mother originally saw the contest come across the NASA.gov feed and asked Alex if he'd be interested. "Once I saw the article announcing the contest, I was so excited that not doing it was not an option," Alex said. Sister Kyra, a Sangster Elementary School student, looked up to him. "I'm really proud of my brother. He did an amazing thing," she said. Alex went to Sangster also.

Alex's goals are to get his high school diploma, go to college and major in engineering or space engineering, and then work at NASA. He's shown interest over the summer with model rockets and programming. "We hope this has a lasting impact," Erin Mather said.

The naming contest partnership is part of a Space Act Agreement in educational and public outreach efforts between NASA; Battelle of Columbus, Ohio; and Future Engineers. Amazon Web Services is a prize provider for the Mars 2020 naming contest.

NEWS



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This map shows the section that will be widened.

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Looking for Parkway Improvements

Public is asked for suggestions for the Fairfax County Parkway and the Franconia-Springfield Parkway.

By MIKE SALMON
 THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County transportation planners are once again looking at the Fairfax County Parkway and the Franconia-Springfield Parkway for potential areas of improvement to keep the traffic flowing through the county. Although bulldozers are not geared up to start any clearing, the county is now going through the formal procedure to come up with a list of potential short and long term projects for these high volume roadways.

According to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkway Alternatives Analysis and Long-Term Planning Study, published Aug. 20, 2019, the parkway is divided into five segments for planning purposes:

- Franklin Farm Road to Route 123
- Route 123 to Rolling Road and Franconia-Springfield Parkway
- Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Richmond Highway
- Rolling Road and Fairfax County Parkway to Beulah Street
- When data was collected, the most feedback was from Segment 3, while Segment 5 had the most support for bike trails on both sides of the parkway. A large number of drivers were interested in changes at the Popes Head Road and Burke Center Parkway interchanges but any High Occupancy Vehicle ideas throughout the corridor received low support. New park and ride lots received the most support at Rolling Road and I-66.

SEE PUBLIC COMMENTS, PAGE 13

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Senior Year Unlike Any Other

Recent high school grads, Class of 2021 face college uncertainty amid pandemic.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
THE CONNECTION

Senior year, 2020 T.C. Williams graduate Mikaela Pozo applied to 17 colleges. Despite the copious essays and application fees, she needed to cast a wide net. An immigrant and first-generation college student, Pozo depended on scholarships to realize her college dreams. So she applied to pricier private universities that could give her more grants as an international student.

But as college decisions came, Pozo had few options. Her top choice rejected her. Most of the colleges that accepted her such as George Washington University and the University of Richmond gave her no financial aid.

She did receive a full-ride to George Mason University, which she will be attending in the fall.

"It's definitely not the school I thought I would be attending," said Pozo. "It was not a part of the plan. The reason why I chose George Mason was because it was the most financially feasible option."

She's just one student whose college plans differed from initial expectations. Several other recent high school grads are re-evaluating college options amid the pandemic and financial crisis. The students behind them, the Class of 2021, are navigating a new college admissions landscape.

"Because of COVID-19, I had to think about what was the best option financially," said Pozo. "Hypothetically, if I did take out a loan and go to the University of Richmond while we have COVID-19 happening, my mom loses her job and can't help me pay for school. Would there be any opportunities for me to pay off the loan? I would be taking a risk."

Reopening plans for colleges don't make the decision making any easier. George Mason University plans to start its fall semester on schedule with a hybrid plan including both online and in-person classes, but final decisions have yet to be made. Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) will continue most of its classes online.

For some students, the first year of college done remotely is anything but ideal.

María Areyán, a 2019 T.C. Williams graduate who took a gap year, is excited to start her first year of college at NOVA. However, she's not happy about the Zoom lectures.

"I'm not very good at online learning, which is something that I'm scared about," said Areyán. "I'm more functional in a classroom than I am in my room."

College plans aren't the only thing that's changed. Commonly regarded as a rite of passage, the traditional senior year experience is now anything but. The Class of 2020 had their senior year upended with a virtual graduation ceremony, no prom, and a pandemic crashing it all.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kennetra Smith, rising senior at Thomas Edison High School and first-generation Ghanaian-American, has high hopes and expectations for her college admissions process. But she worries that her circumstances and the pandemic might inhibit her from achieving her dreams of attending a top college.

"I think '21 thought we were safe, that maybe we'd miss some schoolwork. But prom is non-negotiable. As we are going into the year, I'm starting to realize that maybe we won't have prom. ... It is what it is."

— Kennetra Smith,
Thomas Edison High School
Class of 2021

"There was so much going on in the world, it was difficult to think about college when there were so many other things I had to think about and process," said Pozo.

The Class of 2021 will have to deal with the same thing, all on top of college applications, possible first days of school over Zoom and rising uncertainty as the pandemic continues.

"We know how hard it is, doing college apps, doing schoolwork and balancing everything," said Areyán. "But I think it's going to be harder now with the pandemic."

Fairfax and Loudoun counties have announced a complete virtual fall reopening



SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA (SFA)

Yulisa Morales, 2020 T.C. Williams graduate and SFA Scholarship Recipient. She's heading to Virginia State University in the fall to pursue social work.

"Our senior year is going to be really different; I don't think it's going to be normal. I don't think anything's going to be normal."

— Fina Osei-Owusu,
T.C. Williams Class of 2021

for its public school students. Alexandria is still deliberating, hosting public hearings to develop a plan that will be publicized by mid-August.

Kennetra Smith, a rising senior at Thomas Edison High School, feels uncertain about a new online school year. As a low-income student living in a small apartment with five other people, she struggled to balance family responsibilities on top of schoolwork and scholarship applications.

"It's going to be really hard to make those connections with my new teachers this year," said Smith. "How do I put myself out there for my teachers and how do I engage?"

Fairfax had a rocky start to online learning earlier in the spring. A security breach and technical issues with the distance learning platform Blackboard led to the district pressing pause on online learning for several days. Despite the issues being fixed, students will start a new school year with continuing struggles with online learning.

"NOT EVERYONE has the same learning environment," said Smith. "Not everyone has a place where they can be respected. Not

everyone has a specific space for this stuff. ... We all know virtual learning isn't working. If anything, we're taking a step backwards."

The pandemic is also causing a shakeup in college admissions. Several Northern Virginia schools have adopted pass/fail grading and taking college admissions tests like the SAT and ACT have become nearly impossible. In response, many Virginia universities such as University of Virginia and Virginia Tech have made test scores optional for admission.

Smith is anxious to get standardized testing over with. She registered to take the SAT in August but her testing location in D.C. canceled. She's now scheduled to take the exam in October at a school in Maryland, an hour and a half away from home.

Even with recent policy changes, a good test score can still bring scholarships and college affordability.

"Schools say they're 'test-optional,' but to what extent are they actually test-optional?" said Smith.

She's not the only one who might have to apply to college without test scores. T.C. Williams rising senior Fina Osei-Owusu is

banking on taking her SAT in August after having her first one canceled in April. But like many things, there's no guarantee that it will happen.

"Everybody is in the same boat," said Beth Lovain of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. "Whatever challenges that they have, every student has."

DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, Pozo argues the barriers many disadvantaged students face when applying to college will persist.

"A lot of low-income people and undocumented people experience the college process a little bit differently," said Pozo. "The college process itself shows how inaccessible college education is."

"We're very worried about the students," said Lovain. "But at some point, it all will go back to normal."

But Smith is starting to accept that her senior year probably won't go as anticipated.

"I think '21 thought we were safe, that maybe we'd miss some schoolwork," said Smith. "But prom is non-negotiable. As we are going into the year, I'm starting to realize that maybe we won't have prom.... It is what it is."

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NEWS

Public Comments Sought on Parkway Improvements

FROM PAGE 10

To get a realistic look at what area drivers want with both of these roads, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is on to round two of the comments, so they can gather feedback from residents. The second round of getting feedback ends on Aug. 31 and then they will compile the comments to submit ideas for the county comprehensive plan.

Based on the feedback, the study team will develop and evaluate final recommendations in its transportation models to ensure that the recommended improvements address future demand and commuter needs, the county said.

FCDOT will present the final recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this winter. Once the Board of Supervisors have endorsed the study, FCDOT will begin the process of amending the Comprehensive Plan in Spring 2021. FCDOT will prioritize recommendations from the study to show what may be implemented in the near future or over a longer

(10-50 year) horizon, as funding allows, so most improvements will not happen right away.

COMING SOON

From the looks of the suggestions, the southern part of the parkway received much attention. It had the most feedback and suggestions, and currently has a project on the books to add another lane from Route 29 to Ox Road, or Route 123. Over the past year, there have been a couple of public information meetings on this project, and right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin before the end of 2020..

This \$290 million project is listed on the Virginia Department of Transportation website, under "In Design," and the final public information meeting on this project was in December 2019. As the plan is now, they will widen about five miles of Fairfax County Parkway from four lanes to six between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The traffic signal at Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) and Popes Head Road (Route 654) will be replaced with an in-

Deadline: Aug. 31

Comments are still being accepted, until Aug. 31. To submit a comment or your ideas for the Fairfax County Parkway and the Franconia-Springfield Parkway:

Email comments by using the Feedback Form link <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway>

Call FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

Mail comments to Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Attn: Fairfax County & Franconia-Springfield Parkways Study, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033

terchange, including access to the future Shirley Gate Road extension and Patriot Park. Those plans are still being further developed and refined, it states on the website.

Both the interchanges at Route 123 and the Fairfax County Parkway/Burke Centre Parkway will be redesigned, and the shared use path will be completed. Right now there is a missing segment between Burke Centre Parkway to Route 123. Everything on this project is scheduled to be complete "as early as 2023," the website says, but there are parts of it where the funding has not been identified, so no date is given for these parts of the project.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Safeguarding My Future



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Whether or not I'm certain about my attitude toward being a dual cancer threat (non small cell lung and papillary thyroid, cancer), only my subconscious knows for sure. This was recently made clear to when I provided my supermarket shopping preferences to my wife, Dina, who for reasons she takes very seriously: my health, won't let me go into stores to buy anything. Ergo, my list. And I may add, there is much adieu about those preferences. It's like a negotiation. Though not exactly partisan, the debates rage on and I'm lucky, if I see more than a handful of requests honored from my list. In effect, Dina is my gatekeeper (you'll note I didn't say jailor).

There are some requests which are rarely obstructed: health and fitness, fruits and vegetables, meat and potatoes and any other non-desert/snack-type item. I'm not going to bore you readers by saying how long it's been since I've had a Hostess cupcake or an Entenmann's cake or a TastyKake anything; I wouldn't want you to feel sorry for me. In spite of this food censorship, I'm hardly wasting away. Though I've lost some weight, mostly due to my low iodine diet a few months back (as part of my thyroid cancer treatment), it was weight I could certainly afford to lose.

Now that I've lost it, Dina doesn't want me to gain it all back. Which I can understand and appreciate. Overweight often leads to any number of problems: hypertension, diabetes and even heart disease, to name a few possible complications. Still, I have my food requirements (OKAY, needs) and unless I get them, Kenny will become even more of a dull boy than he already is. So far, Dina is not budging. I wouldn't quite say she's the immovable object, but she definitely remains an obstacle to my caloric happiness.

And the 'caloric happiness' to which I refer are basically Kenny's four food groups: cake, cookies, candy and ice cream, which also explains my presumptive epitaph: "He never met a carbohydrate he didn't eat." But when the conversation moves to other less controversial items, the conversation is much less problematic and maybe even indicative of who I am, what I've become and how I assess my future prospects (life expectancy).

When one receives a cancer diagnosis, your brain gets rewired (figuratively speaking) and your choices become sort of a window to your soul. Things you want/ don't want become tells of what's being debated in your brain. Initially, after hearing your cancer diagnosis, it's unnatural almost to want what you used to want. It feels trivial. Your frame of reference - and context, narrow and shorten. When the future you anticipated is snatched away, it's not only time which is taken. Hopes, dreams and normalcy are snatched away as well. And sometimes, without even realizing it, a request is made which inadvertently illuminates the route to the light at the end of the tunnel.

That moment occurred for me during last week's supermarket list discussion. Aside from the usual stuff that likely would need to be re-ordered, I ordered something new, without it being considered in the context of cancer (basically an abbreviated timeline). I asked Dina to order me an eight-pack of soap bars, an amount of soap that would probably last a few months, at a minimum. A 'minimum' which you don't necessarily anticipate. Not that a cancer diagnosis automatically shortens your life, but generally speaking, it is bad for business, if you know what I mean? A business which, apparently, I'm now willing to invest in. Maybe time is on my side after all.

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

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NEWS

Assistance League Promotes Summer Reading

Last month, in response to the COVID-19 crisis and through a partnership with Scholastic Books, Assistance League of Northern Virginia provided hundreds of new books to elementary school children in Manassas, Alexandria, and Springfield. The books were distributed to students through school staff. Some books were hand delivered to homes, some were mailed, some were placed in "little libraries" at the schools, and others were made available in front of the schools.

As part of its Operation School Bell program, Assistance League of Northern Virginia has a Literacy program through which it tutors students who need extra help with reading, and also provides new books to elementary school children at no cost to them. For many of the students touched through the Literacy program, these are the first new books they could call their own and the only children's books in their homes. Assistance



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALNV

Assistance League of Northern Virginia provided hundreds of new books to elementary school children in Manassas, Alexandria, and Springfield.

League's goal in June was to keep kids reading during the summer when they had no access to public libraries or school classrooms.

For more information, visit: www.alnv.org

AREA ROUNDUPS

Telehealth Medical Consults Offered

After seeing the unprecedented hardships COVID-19 has brought to local businesses, communities and families, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce partnered with BetterBenefits to provide them with telehealth consults.

For \$9.95/month, a family of 10 can obtain unlimited, high-quality, telehealth consults all year long without co-pays. All doctors are U.S.-based and can prescribe medications, as needed. And coverage isn't restricted to immediate family; it may also include extended family outside the subscriber's household (i.e. grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews, etc.).

Enrollment, at <https://www.cfcc.org>, is open until Aug. 31. "This will help struggling families save time and money, while getting treatment for everyday issues without ever leaving home," explained the Chamber's Ex-

ecutive Director, Jennifer Rose. "And in the process, it'll offer some critical relief to our strained healthcare system."

STEM Program Volunteers Needed

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, stemvolunteers.org, needs scientists, engineers and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the DC metro area during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the pandemic, it is anticipated that instruction will be virtual. We will work with our school district partners and volunteers to determine the best ways to support STEM teachers in a virtual environment.

If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please send a note to donaldrea@aol.com with your home address.

Helping Meet Food Needs During Covid-19 Pandemic

Assistance League of Northern Virginia reports that its Weekend Food for Kids program, which was modified because of COVID-19, is still helping food-insecure elementary school children and their families this summer. Since mid-March, when schools were abruptly closed across Virginia, the organization has been distributing grocery store gift cards to four of the six schools that usually receive the bags of weekend food. School staff and principals have worked hard to get them in the hands of the families who are struggling. Maggie Perez-Rives, Family Engagement Coordinator at Lynbrook Elementary School in Springfield, offered an enthusiastic thank you for this assistance: "Assistance League is incredible.

You have no idea how many families just today are asking for food resource help. Perfect timing. Thanks again to all of you, our school's Earth Angels!"

As of this week, Assistance League has provided 1831 gift cards valued at \$20 each (totaling \$36,620) to help families in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. The Assistance League is grateful for the individuals, organizations, and businesses who have provided funding, their time, and other types of support to enable this.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization. Its members are still caring and always helping. For additional information, visit: www.alnv.org

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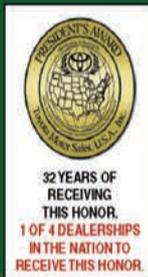
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